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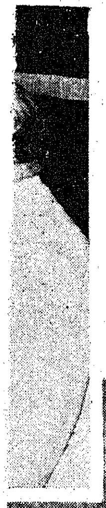
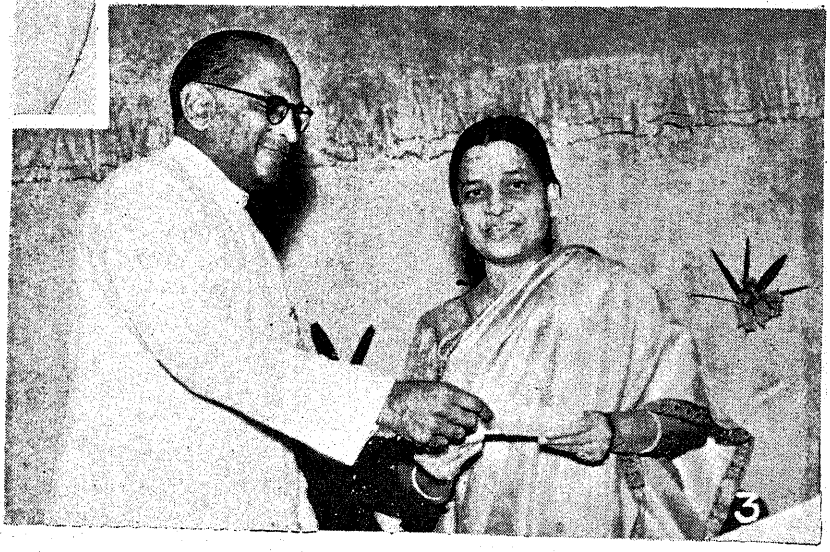
NOVEMBER 1966



3. Sri V. S. Thiagaraja Mudaliar, President, Cardiology Fund Committee, presenting a cheque for Rs. 1 lakh to Srimathi Jothi Venkatachellum, Minister for Health.]



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# MADRAS INFORMATION

Vol. XXI NOVEMBER 1966 No. 11

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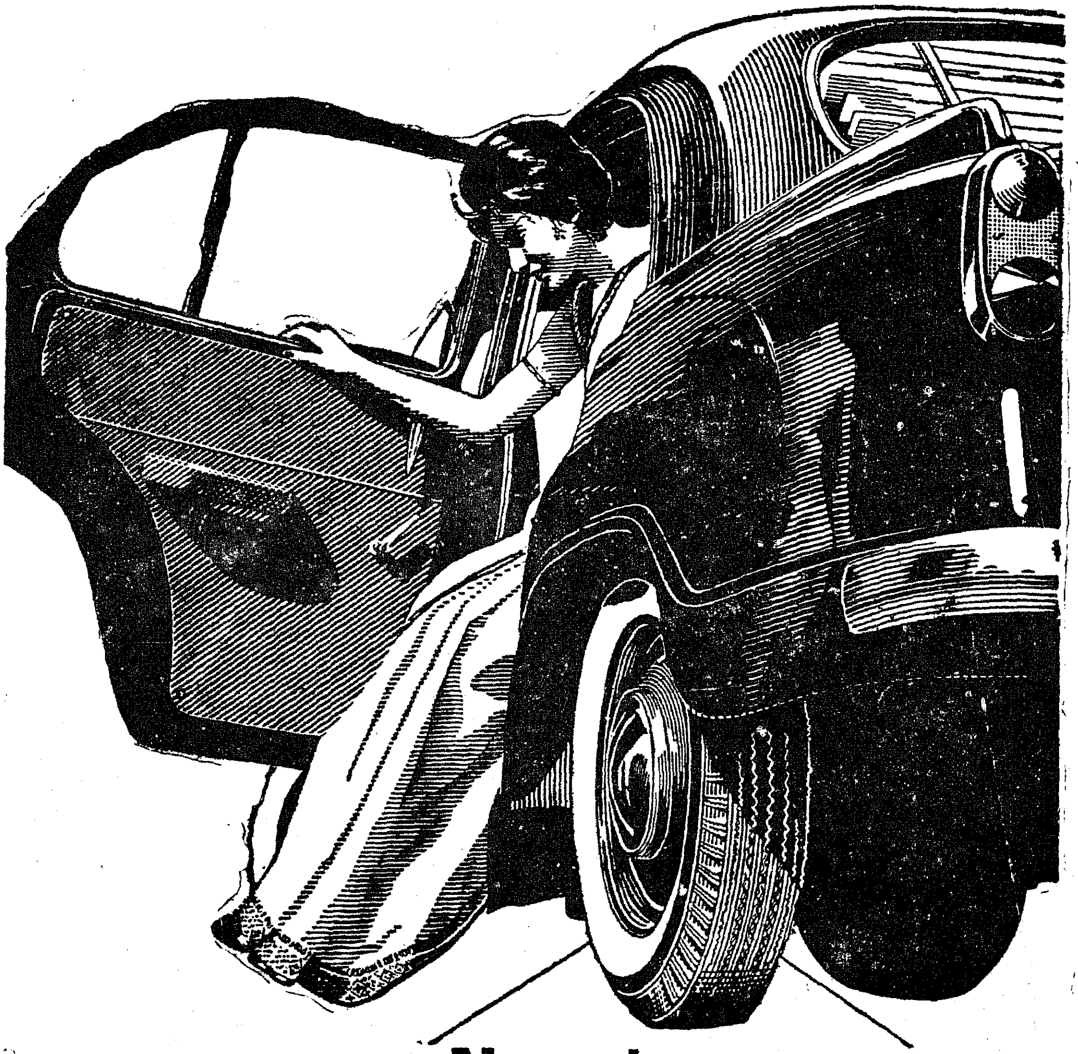

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in promoting the Midday Meal Schemes. Dr. M. D. The Horticulturist, Sri Sundararajan from the State

*Children's Day Feature*

# Seminar on School Lunch Programme

*The nutritional and health needs of the children need not be over-emphasised. The proper care of children is one of the basic problems of the society as well as the Government. In this connection it would be of interesting to note that the Madras Government is the first State in India to launch the free Midday Meal Scheme for school children. The Seminar on School Lunch Programme conducted at the Sri Avinashilingam Home Science College, Coimbatore, has thrown much light on this scheme.*

*The general performance in school, the memory power, nutritional knowledge, etc., were higher among the children benefited by the free Midday Meals Scheme. This is one of the valuable findings of the seminar.*

*When we celebrate the November 14, the Birth Day of Sri Jawaharlal Nehru, as Children's Day this article will be read with much interest.*

The Sri Avinashilingam Home Science College has combined, reasearch, teaching and extension as an integrated working unit, to bring about the desirable changes in the living conditions and practices of students and the community at large, particularly in food habits. Food and Nutrition is an important aspect of Home Science. Students at the post-graduate level undertake research studies and submit these in fulfilment of the requirements of the University of Madras. The School Lunch Programme, as in operation in the Madras State, has been one of the major projects of their research since 1962.

Under the frame work of the Madras Midday Meal Scheme while keeping the cost at 10 Paise per meal per child, all pupils who wish to take part in the school lunch are entertained, without distinction regarding income, caste or community and nutrition education forms an integral part.

**Findings of the studies**

Some of the findings of the studies undertaken are given below :—

1. The mean increases in body weight, haemoglobin level, red blood Cell count and muscle strength of children participating in the school lunch were significantly higher than those for children not participating in school lunch.

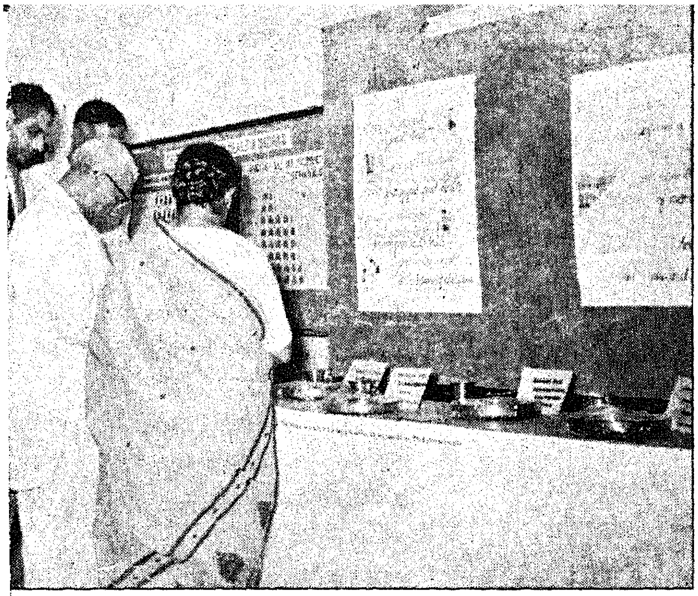
2. The nutritional knowledge acquired by the children participating in school lunch was superior to those not participating.

3. The memory power was higher for children participating in school lunch.

4. The general performance of children in school in terms of play, mental alertness, social alertness and participation in extra curricular activities was superior in the case of those participating in the School Lunch Programme.

5. An adequate lunch within 10—11 Paise per child per day can be provided consisting of the following ingredients :—

| *Items.* | *Amount (in grams).* |
|---|---|
| Cereals .. .. .. | 70 (Out of which 45 gms. of corn meal on alternative days is included free of cost). |
| Pulses .. .. .. | 20 |
| Vegetables .. .. | 50 |
| Fruits .. .. .. | 15 |
| Jaggery .. .. .. | 15 |
| Oils and Nuts .. .. | 10 (Oil is free of cost from CARE). |
| Skim milk-reconstituted (CARE). | 150 (free of cost). |



Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Chief Minister, who inaugurated the Seminar on School Lunch Programme at Sri Avinashilingam College for Home Science, Coimbatore, is going round the exhibition organised on the occasion.

Utilizing these amounts, a variety of menus can be formulated to serve attractive and nutritive meals to children, such as the sample menu given below:—

Wheat kitchadi ; sirukeerai kootu ; sprouted green-gram (raw); beverage of Indian M.P.F. and reconstituted skimmed milk.

6. The parents got interested in the school lunch programme and in the welfare of the school, because the lunches provided were nutritious and helped to develop clean and good eating habits in their children.

7. The nutrition education imparted in the school lunch programme reached the parents and the community through the children.

8. All the above benefits helped to develop healthy and happy children.

Several educationists and members of International Agencies have been visiting the school lunch programme of the College. They expressed their appreciation for the organised and hygienic manner in which it is being conducted. They have also urged that the good features of such a fine programme should be extended to all schools through the administrators who are involved in the implementation of the Madras Midday Meal Scheme. Among these, the suggestion of Srimathi Sarojini Varadappan, Chairman, State Social Welfare Board, and President, Madras Parent Teachers' Association—that the officials of the Education and Welfare Departments should be brought together to see the programme—was, the motivation for organising this seminar. Accepting her suggestion, the Principal forwarded a proposal to the Government of Madras, offering to play host to the seminar. The proposal was warmly received by the Chief Minister, Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, and action was taken immediately.

**Participants**

Thirty-six participants attended the seminar. They included :—

Eleven deputed by Srimathi Anjani Dayanand, I.A.S., Deputy Secretary, Education Department, three deputed by Sri K. Diraviam, I.A.S., the Director of Rural Development, one deputed by Coimbatore Municipality, two from the Orientation and Study Centre, Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation, Bhavanisagar, two from Sri Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya, four from Sri Avinashi lingam Home Science College, and thirteen Instructress and Mukhya Sevikas from the States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Mysore and Andhra Pradesh.

The seminar was fortunate to have Dr. Rajammal P. Devadas as the Director. Her extensive experience with the school lunch programmes in the different States of India and membership in the National Nutrition Advisory Committee and the National School Health Council gave much depth and clarity to the discussions.

Prior to the commencement of the seminar, a questionnaire was sent to the participants to elicit information on—

1. Number of schools and pupils having the Midday Meal Scheme in their area.

2. Menus followed for the School Lunch Programme.

3. Sources of obtaining the foodstuffs.

4. Food storage facilities available in the school.

5. Help available to prepare the meals.

6. Problems encountered in the organisation of the midday meal in the school.

The responses received from the participants formed the basis for the scope and content of the seminar.

**Inauguration of the Seminar**

The seminar was inaugurated on 1st July 1966 by Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Chief Minister of Madras. The Chief Minister who is also the Minister for Education emphasised that the organisers of the Madras Midday Meal Scheme could learn a great deal from the research findings made available through Sri Avinashilingam Home Science College. Srimathi Sarojini Varadappan, Chairman, State Social Welfare Board and President of the Madras State Parent-Teacher Association who participated in the function and inaugurated the Parent-Teacher Association, stressed the role of parents

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in promoting the Midday Meal Schemes. Dr. M. D. Paul, Director of Secondary and Elementary Education, outlined the role of scientific studies in improving qualitative aspects of the programme.

Among the several message received, those from FAO, UNICEF, CARE, and Peace Corps reflected the great interest of these international organization in child nutrition.

The topics chosen for discussion at the various sessions of the seminar which held for three days were :—

1. Nutritional requirements of children at different ages and their nutritional problems ;

2. Concept and constituents of an adequate School Lunch and choice of foods with emphasis on available resources and cost ;

3. Methods of cooking to conserve nutrients ;

4. Essential factors in planning the school lunch—equipment, space, storage facilities and personnel.

5. Administrative and other difficulties in the organisation of school lunch ; and

6. Educational and social aspects of the School Lunch Programme.

**Special speakers**

All the sessions were planned and conducted with an entirely practical bias, consisting of demonstrations and practicals, on what could be achieved within the framework of the 10-paise provision of the Madras Midday Meal Scheme based on the results of four years of research.

The first session of the seminar was presided over by Dr. M.D. Paul, the Director of Secondary and Elementary Education. Dr. Paul stated that it was good to have the seminar to take stock of where we are, and learn how best we can improve the present conditions, ' utilising the benefits of the research done in the field '. He pointed out that the Sri Avinashilingam Home Science College demonstrated an integrated programme of education which made it highly qualified to conduct this seminar on School Lunch Programme.

The Founder of the College Sri T. S. Avinashilingam participated in one session, which witnessed under his leadership, a very lively, practical and down to earth discussion, on the administrative difficulties, out of which valuable suggestions had emerged as resolutions of the seminar.

Sri G. R. Damodaran, Principal, P.S.G. College of Technology, and Member, Madras Legislative Council, was the Chief Guest at another session. As President of the Coimbatore District Teachers' Guild, he spoke of the difficulties experienced by the teachers in the School Lunch Programme.

The Horticulturist, Sri Sundararajan from the State Agricultural College gave some tips on vegetable cultivation, especially when limitation of space is a problem.

**Exhibition**

An exhibition was put up for the occasion illustrating the findings of the studies on school lunch comprising :—

1. The higher nutritional status of children participating in the school lunch, as evidenced by increases in weight, height and blood picture ;

2. The benefits of the school lunch in terms of sociability and human relations ;

3. The changes occurring in children in the school lunch towards more acceptable food habits ;

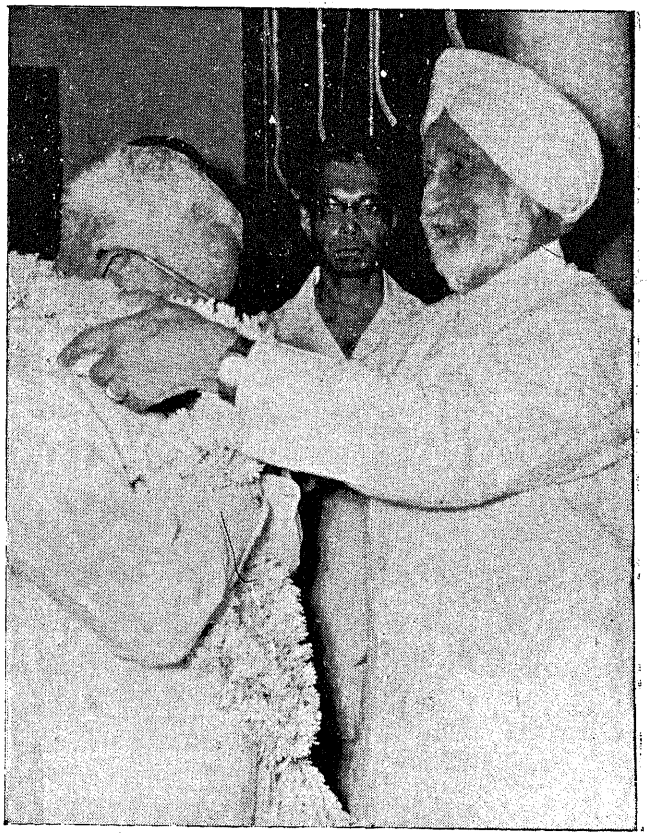
4. The minimum equipment required for school lunch ;

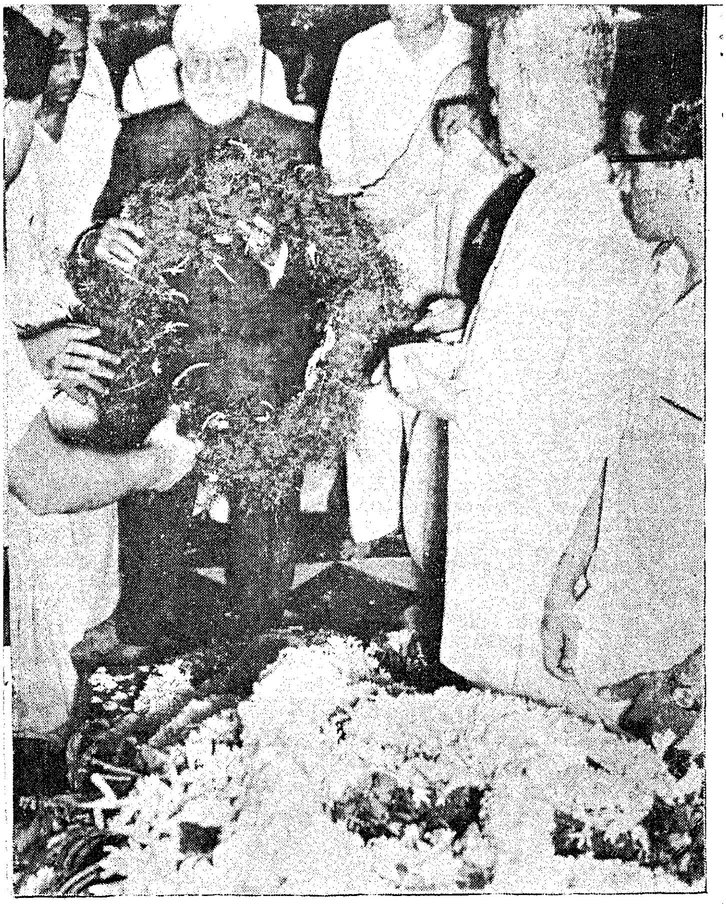
5. The ways of saving time and money in preparing the school meals through the use of labour and time saving devices such as smokeless chula, hay box for cooking rice, and improved methods for reconstituting skim milk powder ; and

6. A variety of prepared school lunch within the cost of 10 paise per meal.

---

Sardar Ujjal Singh, Governor of Madras, called on Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Chief Minister, at his residence at Mylapore and felicitated him on his 70th Birthday on 9th October 1966. The Governor is garlanding Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam on the occasion.





Dr. C. P. Ramaswami Iyer passed away at London on 26th September 1966 and his body was brought to Madras, Sardar Ujjal Singh, Governor of Madras, is placing a wreath on the body on 29th September 1966 at the latter's residence in Alwarpet, Madras.

The lively discussions which followed each presentation paved the way to find useful solutions to many pressing problems.

**Demonstrations**

The participants were convinced about the feasibility and workability of the suggestions given during the seminar, through the following demonstrations :—

1. Detecting deficiency symptoms manifested by the children by actual observations on malnourished children.
2. Saving of fuel by cooking rice using a Hay-Box.
3. The attractiveness of meals prepared in the recommended ways.
4. Reconstituting the skim milk powder.
5. Storage of food gifts received for the school lunch.
6. Methods which can be used for Nutrition Education.

The valedictory address for the seminar was delivered by Dr. Susheela Nayyar, Union Minister for Health, who expressed a desire that Sri Avinashilingam Home Science College should conduct similar seminars for all the Municipalities, and other administrators in the State. Sri N. Mahalingam M.L.A. presided.

At the conclusion of the three-day seminar; the resolutions formulated are given below:—

*I. Raising public contribution*

1. Explore, in view of the difficulties experienced by some schools in obtaining the local contribution of four Paise per child per day, the possibility of creating a common pool for such contribution at the block or panchayat level by the concerned authorities.

2. Organise, through the pooled efforts of headmasters and teachers of two or three schools, (*a*) dramatic shows on a touring basis from village to village and raise funds, (*b*) visits, every year, to a tourist centre like Kodaikanal to collect donations from the wealthy tourists and (*c*) enrolment of the well-to-do children in the School Lunch Programme, through donations.

3. The Government of Madras be requested to make it obligatory on the part of the Panchayats to give 2 Paise per child per day for the School Lunch.

4. In view of the ever increasing prices of food commodities the Government be requested to raise its contribution of 6 P. to 8 P. per meal per child.

5. Form Parent-Teacher Associations in every school and assign to the members the responsibility for organising and financing the School Lunch Programmes.

6. Consider the produce of ANP gardens and other gardens as part of peoples' contribution.

7. A pilot study may be made in one or two districts to assess the expenditure incurred in transportation for the School Lunch Programme, under the present conditions, in order to locate the problems and improve systems.

8. The panchayats be requested to build kitchens for all elementary schools utilizing the provision to levy local developmental tax for a specific cause, that is earmarked for the School Lunch Programme.

*II. Distribution and storage of foods*

1. Have a central co-operative stores, distribute the foods including vegetables, so that teachers need not be concerned with the day to day purchases, which involve a good deal of expenditure of time on book keeping, interfering with teaching duties.

2. The Block agencies—the co-operatives and educational workers should join together to pool their resources to procure and distribute foods for this programme.

*III. Preparation of meals*

1. Instal the Hay-Box in all the schools to cook rice, which will help to save time and fuel, as well as conserve nutritive value.

2. Prohibit making of curds from skim milk but serve it as a hot beverage, in order to minimise the risks of food handling.

3. Circulate the list of school lunch menus worked out at Sri Avinashilingam Home Science College and presented in this seminar to all the elementary schools in the State for adoption.

4. In all future School Improvement Conferences, to promote the supply to each school, of the minimum equipment for cooking midday meals, as suggested in this seminar.

*IV. Nutrition education*

1. Request the Government of Madras to organise a mobile unit from Sri Avinashilingam Home Science College to go to all the districts and conduct seminars for the teachers ; or to send groups of teachers to the college for getting the orientation in nutrition.

2. Request the Director of Rural Devlopment to send a circular to all the Panchayat Unions, that when they arrange study tour for Mathar Sangams, the visit to the Sri Avinashilingam Home Science College be notified in advance in order to enable the display of the salient features of School Lunch Programmes for the members of Mather Sangams.

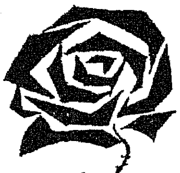
3. Request the Government of Madras to give state awards to the best School Lunch Programme based on the nutritional status of children.

4. Request the Sri Avinashilingam Home Science College to prepare suitable guide books for the organisation of School Lunch Programmes.

5. Request the Government of Madras to conduct similar seminars in other divisions also.

The evaluation of the seminar by the participants at the conclusion, showed that the benefits of the seminar had been many, and ensured that the objectives of the seminar had been achieved.

The meeting of the Technical Man Power Assessment Committee was held in the Cabinet Room of the Secretariat, Madras, on 30th September 1966. Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao, Member, Planning Commission, presided over the meeting. Sri R. Venkataraman, Minister for Industries also participated.



# ECONOMIC POLICIES OF NEHRU AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS

SRI L. N. MISHRA, *Union Deputy Minister for Finance.*

Of late, many voices have been raised against the economic policies that the nation has pursued for the last 17 years. It is being maintained that the main cause for the present difficult economic situation is faulty planning and Nehru's economic management of the country. It is beyond any dispute that the country is passing through a period of economic crisis. The question that every citizen of the country must try to understand and analyse is whether the present state of affairs is the result of our past policies or whether it is due to certain circumstances which no alternative economic policy could have been able to accommodate.

A criticism of the past economic policies is a reflection on the economic thoughts and perspective of Pandit Nehru. I deem it my sacred duty to put before you frankly the rationale of the policies pursued by Panditji.

### A great leader

Pandit Nehru was not a prime minister alone. He was a great leader; a symbol of Indian nationalism. Even when the country was struggling to gain political independence, he had the foresight to see that political independence without economic self-reliance would have no meaning. He, therefore, sought to create a strong economic base which in the long run would free this country of economic dependence on others. Jawaharlalji had also realised that if the developmental efforts were to subserve the main aim of lifting the masses from the appalling poverty and ignorance, the only way open was that of planned development where the scarce resources could be husbanded properly and utilised in accordance with the priorities decided by the nation for the establishment of a socialist society.

The main objectives of our Plans have been an all round improvement in the levels of living of the masses through increased production, better health, sanitation and at least a minimum education to everyone. It was also desired that social justice should obtain in our society which meant pursuance of a deliberate policy of reducing the disparities of incomes and wealth and preventing concentration of economic power.

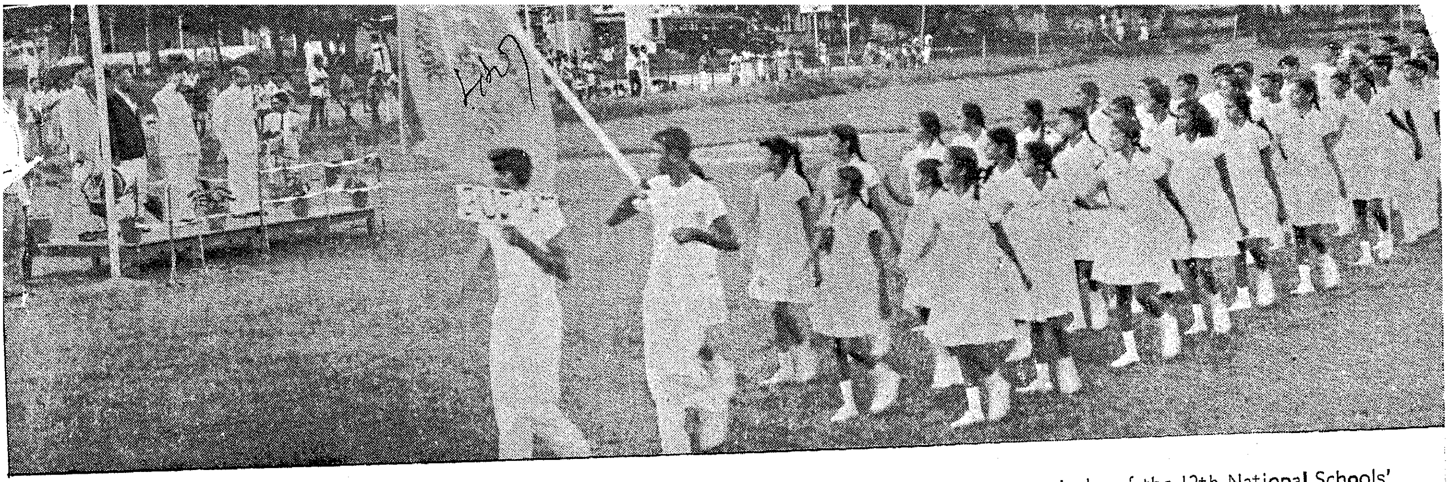
With the goal of maximum good of the maximum number, we could not allow individual profits to guide the development of the economy. We could not afford any non-essential investment. Policies like the industrial policy and an integrated system of controls were inevitable in this context for the twin aims of optinum utilisation of scarce resources and prevention of exploitation of the masses by the vested interests during the period of scarcities.

The Government could and did prevent wasteful investment, but it could not enforce private sector investments in the desired directions. It was thus necessary for the Government to step in and undertake industrial activities for a rapid growth of the priority branches of the industry. In some cases like arms and ammunition, atomic energy, iron and steel, coal, etc., the Government took over the responsibility for development in the national interest. Even here the existing private units were not only allowed to function but given every opportunity for expansion.

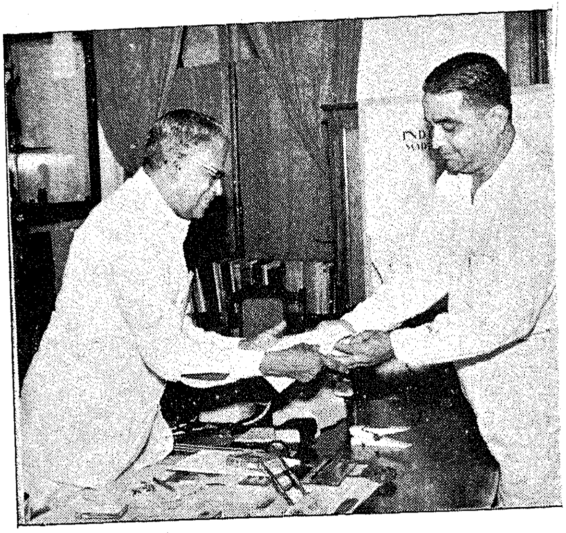
### Nehru's flexible approach

This expansion of the public sector was an inevitable and logical consequence of the realisation that in the transformation of the economy the state has to play a crucial role. But, here also Jawaharlalji had a flexible approach. It was clearly enunciated in the First Five-Year Plan that this policy of expanding the public sector need not involve complete nationalisation of the means of production or elimination of private agencies.

it should be appreciated that in pursuance of this policy we have made significant advances in new directions. We have taken tremendous strides in atomic energy, arms and ammunition, iron and steel,



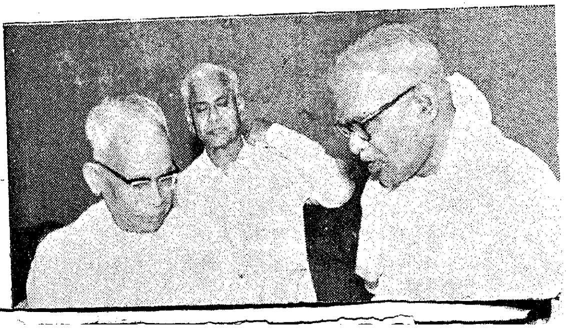
Sri C. A. Ramakrishnan, I.C.S., Chief Secretary to Government is taking salute on the inaugural day of the 12th National Schools' Championship (Autumn games) of the School federation of India held in Madras.

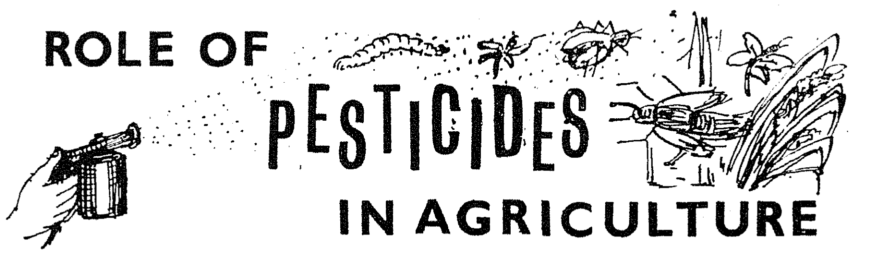


Sri T. K. Seshadri, General and Service Manager, Sundaram Motors (Private), Limited, Madras-6, handing over a cheque to Sri R. Venkataraman, Industries Minister, for Rs. 10,000, being the donation of Premier Automobiles Limited, Bombay, for construction of ten bus shelters in Madras City.

The Finals of the 12th National Schools Championship (Autumn Games) of the School Games Federation of India was held at the Y.M.C.A. College grounds Nandanam, Madras, on 20th October 1966. Sri M. Bhakthavatsalam, Chief Minister presided. Srimathi Gnanasundaram Bhakthavatsalam is distributing the prize to the winners.

Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Chief Minister, released the Fourteenth volume of Gandiji's works in Tamil, published by the Gandiji's Works Publication Committee on 18th October 1966. Sri R. Krishnaswamy Naidu, President, Tamil Nad Congress Committee, is receiving the volume from the Chief Minister.





# ROLE OF PESTICIDES IN AGRICULTURE

SRI O. V. ALAGESAN, *Union Minister for Petrolium and Chemicals.*

*Fertilizers and pesticides are like two sides of the same coin and play a complementary role with reference to each other. Pesticides play a protective role and enable us to realise the higher yields made possible by the application of large dosage of fertilisers.*

*The following excerpts were taken from the address to the Third Annual General Meeting of the Pesticides Association of India.*

The new strategy for increased agricultural production rests mainly on an intensive programme for high yielding varieties which will require a large supply of chemical fertilizers, with special emphasis on plant protection measures. The production of pesticides enjoys the same high priority as the production of fertilizers. Pesticides play a protective role and enable us to realise the higher yields made possible by the application of large dosage of fertilizers. Fertilizers and pesticides are like two sides of the same coin and play a complementary role with reference to each other. I am as anxious to push through the pesticides programme in the Fourth Plan as I am anxious to realise the very ambitious targets set for the production of fertilizers.

### Pesticides' vital role

The pesticides industry is clearly of the utmost importance and has to play a pivotal role in our plan of accelerating agricultural production and economic activity in the country. Thus, while domestic production of formulated pesticides in 1965–66 was estimated at 65,000 tonnes, valued at Rs. 13 crores, the 1970–71 target has been set at 400,000 tonnes, valued at Rs. 150 crores. You will agree this is an ambitious programme. We have to greatly increase domestic manufacture of technical materials, particularly of BHC, DDT, organo-phosphates, carbary 1 and chlorinated syclopentadience-based chemicals—categories in which our achievements so far have not kept pace with our demand. However, I have reason to hope that domestic production facilities for such pesticides will now be installed so that we are able to achieve our Fourth Plan targets.

Hindustan Insecticides Ltd., have now the technology to design and engineer DDT plants and are now doubling their plants in Delhi. Hindustan Antibiotics have developed a new fungicide called 'Aurcfungin which appears extremely effective in controlling blast disease of rice. Both Hindustan Insecticides and Hindustan Organic Chemicals are installing plants to produce BHC. These are the responsibility of the public sector and represent only a very small proportion, say 1/10 of the total investment that will be necessary for achieving the targets in the field of pesticides in the Fourth Plan. The balance of investment, say about Rs. 30 crores (post-devaluation), will have to take place in the private sector. This is both an opportunity and a challenge to the private sector in the pesticides industry which, I hope, will rise to the occasion and fulfil the tasks allotted to it. If, for any reason, the private sector does not come up to expectations, it ma be necessary for the public sector to step in so as to make up the deficiency. I hope your Association will see to it that the private sector does not fail ir their performance. In this connection, you hav raised the question of expediting procedures in licensin pesticide manufacturing units. I assure you on behai of Government that I shall do everything possible t quicken the process.

### Know-how

I realise that in the pesticides industry some foreign know-how may be necessary. Government have taken the initiative in contacting foreign companies possessing know-how in the critical fields of development and sought their assistance in developing production facilities. You may remember that the fertilizer delegation which recently visited the U.S.A. and Canada sought to interest foreign private parties not only in setting up fertilizer plants in India but also in investment in the pesticides industry. I am sorry to say that as regards these twin objectives of the delegation, there has been no adequate response in respect of the major objective, namely, investment in the fertilizer field. I

an only hope that in the least the pesticides field the response will be more encouraging and the assistance we seek will be forthcoming.

As a first step to provide a more firm basis for the growth of the industry, inspite of an acute shortage of foreign exchange at the start of year, Government released more than twice the foreign exchange ever released in the past to ensure that domestic production plants operate at full capacity and that the deficit between assessed demand and domestic supply was adequately covered by imports of raw materials and technical materials. Pesticides is now included in the list of priority items and you can now be confident that the requirements of the pesticides industry will be fully met. All this represents a radical change in the factors affecting the pesticides industry and it is indeed appropriate that we should review the progress and assess the new set of conditions which appear likely to prevail in the future.

**Service to Farmers**

The greatly increased availability of pesticides this year has provided the first big challenge to both Government and members of your Association. You have raised the question whether the channels of distribution should be organised by Government or should be left to the industry. You have also quoted the example of the fertilizer industry where recent decisions of Government enabled the industry to make their own distribution arrangements. In this connection, I am glad to note that your industry is willing and is in a position to give the agriculturist the sort of service he needs in methods of application of pesticides and the care he should exercise in using them. To my mind, it is this aspect of rendering service to the farmer which is more important than who controls the channels of distribution—Government or industry. I would like to see an element of competition between Government and the industry in this matter so that the farmer is served satisfactorily. I welcome the assurance that members of your Association will be glad to take the responsibility of ensuring that pesticides are made available to farmers in the quantities required, at the time required and at reasonable prices.

You have drawn attention to a number of specific problems affecting the operations of your industry; while some of these concern my Ministry, others are the concern of other Ministries. You will appreciate my hesitation in replying on behalf of other Ministries, but I can assure you that these problems will be reviewed with them without delay. You have suggested that a committee consisting of representatives of the Ministries concerned should be set up to consider such matters. I am glad to inform you that such a committee has been set up and indeed it has been reviewing some of the very problems to which you have referred.

You have raised the question of exports being made a condition for setting up manufacture of pesticides. The committee I have mentioned has reviewed the effect of stipulating compulsory exports on the establishment of production units in the country and I believe several members of your Association are aware that in appropriate cases conditions regarding exports have been drastically revised to remove onerous handicaps. While we agreed to such modifications, you have an obligation to study seriously what and how much we can export. India appears to me to be very well placed to meet the pesticides demand of neighbouring countries and this is an opportunity the country must not miss. It is also apparent to me that co-operative effort is urgently required to establish domestic production of basic raw materials at the lowest possible cost. This may obviate import of such raw materials.

You have referred to the policy which allows additional formulating capacity only in the small-scale sector and does not permit such increase in the sector under D.G.T.D. You have also referred to the change in jurisdiction in regard to the small-scale sector. This change was made only very recently and after a detailed study conducted by a committee which included respected public men and which interviewed all sections of the industry and administration. We must allow this experiment some little time to prove itself and it would not be fair to revert to the original position without giving it a fair trial. The small-scale sector has established itself in the country. I am sure there is little dispute about the important part this sector must play in the future development of the pesticides industry and it must necessarily be a part of your Association's activities to ensure fruitful co-operation between the different sectors. We would certainly be prepared to review the existing policy on formulation capacity for units registered with D.G.T.D. and units in the organised sector.

**Legislation on pesticides**

You have welcomed legislation on the subject of pesticides in order to enforce reasonable standards of quality and safety. You have also stated your Association has sent its views on the draft of the proposed Pesticides Bill. It is my understanding that the Bill is based on the report of the Thacker Committee which interviewed all the concerned people and also took the advice of experts in other countries. When the Bill is before Parliament, you will have ample opportunity to study its provisions and suggest necessary modifications, if any.

I welcome your suggestion that the plant protection programme for the rabi season and the attendant problems of methods of purchase, supply, etc., should be reviewed before its commencement. I suggest that this review should also cover the other problems to which you have referred. It would perhaps be best if you can prepare a detailed memorandum on all these aspects which can be studied by the Committee to which I have referred earlier and thereafter discussed with your Association.

One word about purchase of foreign know-how and development of indigenous know-how. I have already stated that I do realise that in this industry some foreign know-kow is necessary but I am sure you will agree that much greater effects are required to develop and utilise indigenous know-how. I take the view that all industries which purchase foreign know-how have an obligation to utilise the period for which such know-how has been obtained to develop their own research and development facilities so that at the end of the period their activities are based on their own technology. This must indeed be the hallmark of a healthy industry.

The pesticides industry has come of age. As I have said, this year has provided the first big challenge to Government and members of your Association, the challenge arising not from scarcity but from plenty of pesticides. The problems that this situation has thrown up should be tackled both by your Association and Government. This, in my opinion, calls for a streamlining of the distribution system. Many of our hopes for accelerating agricultural production are pinned to the efforts of this industry. I have every confidence that the industry will gear itself to meet the challenges that the coming years will pose.

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## Agricultural development under Panchayats

*With a view to formulate schemes suited to local conditions and also to involve the Panchayat Union Councils in the very process of planning for the Fourth Plan, Government requested the Panchayat Union Councils to draw up production schemes and propose a plan to Government for review and orders. The Panchayat Union production plans proposed by them were examined in detail in consultation with the Director of Rural Development, Director of Agriculture, Director of Animal Husbandry and Director of Fisheries. As a result of these discussions, Government now direct that the following schemes be executed under the Agricultural Grant during the Fourth Plan period.*

*Establishment and maintenance of Panchayat Plantation; Construction of agriculture depot-*cum*-godown; Gramasahayak service; Development of local manurial resources, distribution of green manure seeds to individuals; Supply of equipments to individuals; Raising nurseries of vegetables, seedlings, fruit seedlings, etc.; Agricultural extension demonstration plots; Construction of veterinary dispensary*—(a) *New construction*; (b) *Expansion*—(1) *First phase and* (2) *Second phase.*

*To implement these schemes, Government will place a grant of Rs.* 2 *lakhs at the disposal of each Panchayat Union over a period of five years commencing from April* 1, 1966. *To earn this grant, each Panchayat Union should come forward with a matching contribution of not less than Rs.* 50,000, *so that a total sum of Rs.* 2,50,000 *is available to each Union to implement the production schemes during the Fourth Plan.*

*With a view to facilitate, Panchayat Unions further to formulate schemes not mentioned here but which may meet specific needs of their areas a sum of Rs.* 40,000 *has been set apart under " Special Schemes specified to the areas".*

# Pension to Freedom Fighters

The Government of Madras have sanctioned with effect from the 1st October 1966 a scheme for the grant of pension of Rs. 50 per mensem to Freedom Fighters.

The Government have hitherto been recommending the cases of "Freedom Fighters" for the grant of financial assistance from the Union Home Minister's Discretionary Grant. The question of granting relief to persons who have served the nation by participating in the freedom movement had been under consideration of Government for some time. Based on the schemes in force in certain States (like Madhya Pradesh), the Government have decided to introduce a scheme for the grant of pension to "Freedom Fighters" who were sentenced to imprisonment or were held under detention for not less than three months or who were killed in action or were awarded capital punishment or died due to firing or lathi charge on account of participation in the National Movement, the last campaign of which was launched between 1942 and 1944.

Freedom fighter whose income from all sources including help from near relatives does not exceed Rs. 100 per mensem, only will be eligible for this pension. A pension as stated above shall also be payable to the wife/husband, and minor children of a freedom fighter who is now dead, provided that the total grant payable in cases where there are two or more applicants claiming relationship with a deceased freedom fighter shall be limited to Rs. 50 per mensem.

The pension shall be payable till the death if the grantee or the freedom fighter himself/herself. If the grantee is the wife of a freedom fighter, the pension shall be payable till her death or remarriage. If the grantee, however, is a minor son, or a minor daughter the pension shall cease on the son's attaining the age of 18, or on the daughter's marriage or attaining the age of 21 whichever is earlier.

A pension sanctioned under these rules is liable to be cancelled if it is found that the sanction was given on mistaken grounds or that the economic condition of the pensioner has improved. The pension is also liable to be cancelled if the pensioner is absent from Madras State for over three calendar months, provided that if the pensioner has returned to this State at any time and continued to reside here, the Government may revive the payment after due verification of the facts relevant to the continuance of the pension. In such cases, arrears of pension may also be ordered to be paid up to a maximum of three months.

Applications for the grant of pension under these rules should be sent to the Chief Secretary to Government, Public Department, Fort St. Geotge, Madras-9. The applications must be accompanied by certificates—obtained from the Jail Department as proof for having been sentenced to imprisonment or held under detention for not less than three months. No court-fee stamp need be affixed to the application. The decision of the Government on all matters covered by these rules shall be final.

The pension sanctioned under these rules will be payable from the date of issue of the sanction order and it cannot be commuted in exchange for the lump-sum.

In the case of the death of a pensioner, the amount of pension due till his date of death including unpaid arrears shall lapse. The Government may however consider the payment of arrears to a claimant in exceptional circumstances.

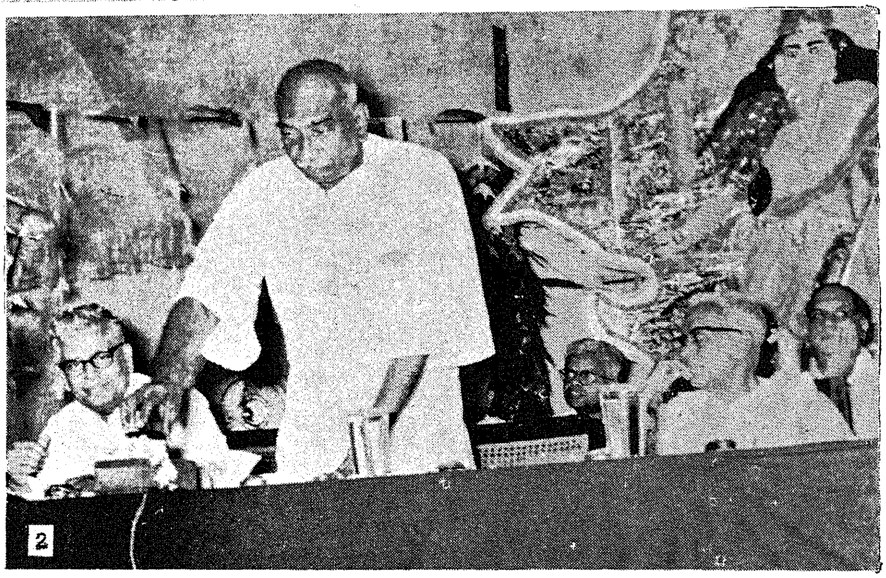
It shall be the duty of the pensioner to intimate his change of residence for more than three months to the Government and also to the Pay and Accounts Officer, Madras, Treasury Officers, or Sub-Treasury Officers who disburses the pension.

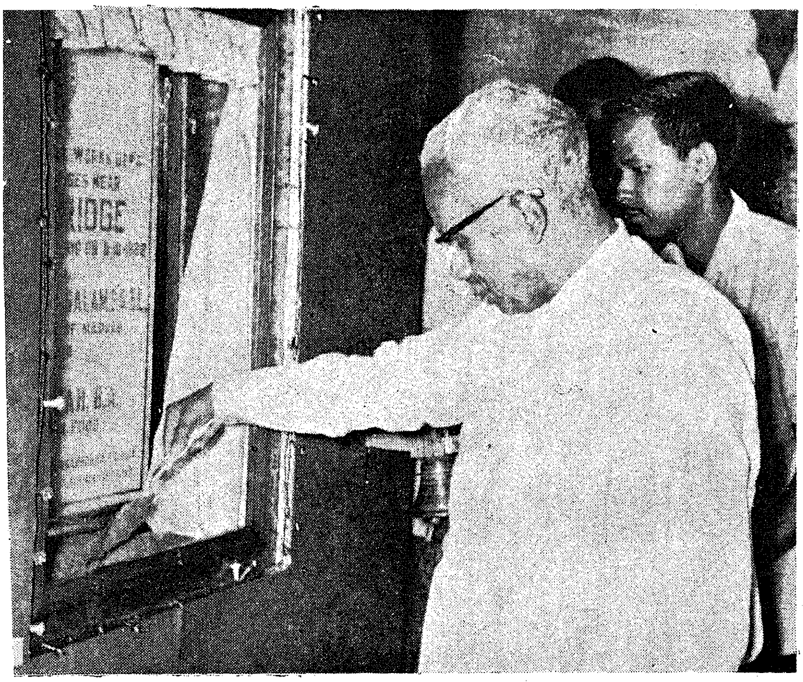
## Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh

The Annual Report for 1965 of the Madras Branch of the Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh (Indian Leprosy Association) contains much useful information on Leprosy and the steps taken by the district branches of the Association as well as other Government and voluntary agencies for the prevention and treatment of the disabilities and deformities caused by leprosy.

The report says that the improved treatment methods are gradually changing the outlook of the society. But the age-long prejudice dies only slowly and we have still to combat it and createincreasingly favourable conditions in which the man cured of leprosy can lead a normal life, earning his living and enjoying social opportunities. It is, therefore, felt that the Sangh's best usefulness lay in the direction of health education, social welfare work pertaining to leprosy and promotion of rehabilitation facilities.

1. View of the Vyasarpadi Housing Colony (Satyamurthi Nagar), Madras.





2. Sri K. Kamaraj, Congress President, is inaugurating the Slum Improvement Projec Housing Scheme at Vyasarpadi on 6th October 1966. Sri R. Venkataraman, who presided over the function, and Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Chief Minister, who inaugurated the Water-supply System are also seen in the picture.

3. Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Chief Minister, laying foundation for the widening of bridges near Basin Bridge, Madras, on 8th October 1966.

4. Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Chief Minister, switching a button to mark the inauguration of the Marmalong Bridge at Saidapet on 7th October 1966.

# Vyasarpadi Slum Improvement Project

The Vyasarpadi Slum Improvement Scheme is the biggest Slum Improvement Project undertaken so far by the Housing Board. Prior to the formation of the State Housing Board on a statutory basis on 21st April 1961, the Corporation of Madras was incharge of implementation of the Slum Improvement/Clearance Scheme in the North Madras. The lands lying on either side of the Magazine Road and East of the Erukkancheri Road, were acquired by the Corporation. After the transfer of the project work to the Madras Housing Unit of the State Housing Board, a comprehensive layout for the entire area was prepared. This project envisages the provision for about 2,109 families in all 1,059 families in open developed plots and 1,050 in storeyed tenements, at an estimated cost of Rs. 104 lakhs.

The Union Government's Scheme provides two ways of rehabilitation, viz. (1) "Self-help" method and (2) Construction of tenements. In this project, both these two methods have been adopted. Under the former method, a plot measuring 900 square feet is provided to each family. Hutting materials such as coconut leaves, bamboo and casurina posts, fibres and earth for mud walls, together with a cash grant to meet the erection charges, all totalling Rs. 285 are being given to each family and the allottee is expected to raise his hut. In addition to this a pucca bath and flush out latrine (with covering) each measuring 16 square feet and 12 square feet, respectively, are constructed for every plot. Further, each plot is also provided with one foot high earthern platform of 300 square feet., in the middle of the plot to enable the allottee to put up a hut.

Under the second method, pucca tenements (storeyed) are constructed and allotted to each family. The tenements are of the design which was specially evolved by the expert committee appointed by the Board. Each tenement consists of one living room of 120 square feet, a verandah and kitchen about 110 square feet, a bath room of about 15 square feet, and a latrine of about 12 square feet. In addition, a balcony of about 40 square feet is provided to every tenements in the I and II floors. Arrangement for the supply of water to the II floor has also been made by constructing over head tanks.

The total cost of acquisition of land and development as per the approved layout with all civic amenities such as water supply, drainage, street lights, etc., is about Rs. 20·76 lakhs. The cost of provision of 1,059 open developed plots, i.e., cost of construction of bath and f.o.l., provision of hutting materials, cash grant, etc., is about Rs. 11·06 lakhs. The cost of construction of 1,050 tenements with pile foundations, as the soil condition in this area is too soft, treacherous and clayey, is Rs. 68·95 lakhs. In addition, miscellaneous expenditure contingency charges comes to **Rs. 3·23 lakhs.**

According to the pattern of financial assistance laid down by the Union Government under its Slum Clearance Scheme, 37½ per cent of the ceiling cost of these dwelling units (at the rate of Rs. 1,250 to Rs. 2,350 per unit in respect of open developed plots and Rs. 4,600 to Rs. 6,225 per unit in respect of tenements) will be given as loan, viz., Rs. 25·66 lakhs, by the Government of India. An equal sum of Rs. 25·66 lakhs will be given as subsidy by the Union Government. The share of the State Government is two-fold, i.e. the remaining 25 per cent of the ceiling cost, viz., 17·11 lakhs is granted as matching subsidy in addition to the excess over ceiling cost, viz., 35·57 lakhs which is also granted as additional subsidy by the State Government.

The plots developed and the tenements constructed are being allotted to slum dwellers including pavement dwellers of the North Madras. Surplus families who are dehoused consequent on the Slum Improvement Projects launched by the State Housing Board, in areas like Kalyanapuram, Venkatesapuram, Malligaippucheri, etc., are rehoused here. In addition, about 1,000 pavement dwellers have been rehoused here from North Madras, particularly harbour and its neighbouring areas, such as I, II, III and IV Line Beach Roads, Ebrahimji Sahib Street, Mukkoor Nalla Muthu Street, St. Xavier Street, Sembudoss Street, Pidariar Koil Street, etc. These dwelling units are allotted on monthly rental basis. While the subsidised economic rents for the open developed plots and tenemants work out to Rs. 9 per mensum and Rs. 39 per mensum, respectively (full economic rents being Rs. 19 per mensum and Rs. 40 to Rs. 50) the Union Government fixed the standard rents at Rs. 5 per mensum and 14·50 per mensum, respectively. The Madras Government, however, fixed the rent at still lesser rates, viz., Rs. 3 per mensum per open developed plot and Rs. 10 per mensum per tenement and came forward to subsidise the difference between the standard rent and this rent.

The lay out provides for enough space for school and a playground. In addition a community centre has been constructed to cater the needs of the residents of this area. Lands have also been set apart for Police and Postal Departments for constructing a police station and a Post Office.

With a view to expeditiously provide all basic amenities and to save delay, the Public Health Division of the State Housing Board undertook the work of laying sewer mains and water mains in the North Vyasarpady area. Since enough water could not be supplied from the usual Corporation water supply points, the State Housing Board brought the mains from its water supply system at Sarma Nagar Industrial Colony.

# KAMADHENU

Several measures have been taken by the Government of India and the State Governments to hold the price line and make available essential commodities and consumer goods to the public in adequate quantities and at reasonable prices. One of the most important of these measures is the accelerated programme of setting up Consumer Co-operatives and Department Stores, particularly in the metropolitan cities and large towns with population of over two lakhs.

Two large Department Stores or Supermarkets are being set up in the City of Madras. It is the proud privilege of the Triplicane Urban Co-operative Society, the premier consumer co-operative institution in the City and one of the largest in the country, to undertake the setting up of the Co-operative Supermarket in South Madras. The T.U.C.S. with a membership of 65,000 and running 68 branches in the City and the suburbs with an annual sales turnover of Rs. 3·5 crores, is the obvious choice for being entrusted with the task of running the large Co-operative Supermarket in South Madras.

The South Madras Co-operative Department Store (a Unit of the T.U.C.S.) has been inaugurated on 14th October 1966 by the Chief Minister of Madras. It will cater to the needs of 15,000 to 20,000 consumers a day. The expected value of sales daily is about Rs. 1 lakh. This organisation has been established to ensure the sale of several commodities of different categories under one roof at as cheap a price as possible in good quality in line with the policy of the Government to hold down the prices. It has arranged to purchase very heavy quantities of various kinds of consumer necessities direct from manufacturers to ensure keeping down of the sale price charged to the consumers. This is a venture assisted largely by the Government with share capital, loan and grant. This is the biggest and the only institution to be set up so far in the Madras State on the lines of the Super Bazaar in New Delhi, for achieving the object of keeping down prices. It will have six departments, viz., (1) groceries and toiletry, (2) textiles, (3) vegetables, eggs and farm products, (4) general merchandise including crockery, electrical goods, plastic goods, etc., (5) drugs and pharmaceuticals and (6) cafeteria.

The Government of India have come forward to provide financial assistance for the setting up of this Co-operative Supermarket on the following pattern.—

| | RS. (IN LAKHS). |
|---|---|
| Share capital .. .. | 10 |
| Loan-*cum*-subsidy for fittings and equipment. | 7 |
| Managerial subsidy .. | 0·25 |
| Total .. | 17·25 |

Kamadhenu, as the Co-operative Supermarket of the T.U.C.S. has been named, has been set up in a record time of six weeks, from the date of taking over the possession of the building to the date of inauguration.

Some of the salient features of the various departments are worth-mentioning here—

*Groceries and provisions.*—Special arrangements have been made for grading, cleaning and quality-testing of groceries and provisions. A special feature of the Supermarket is that all groceries will be pre-packed in standard weights and sold in sealed polythene bags. This will ensure quick service and complete satisfaction to the customers.

*Vegetable, Fruits, Dairy products and Eggs.*—Special arrangements have been made to buy fresh vegetables from such centres like Ooty, Bangalore, etc., and transport them daily for sale through the Supermarket. A cold-storage has also been installed in this department for storing large quantities of vegetables and fruits. Arrangements have also been made for cleaning and grading the vegetables before sale. Special laminated wooden trays have been made for storing and selling vegetables and fruits under hygienic conditions.

*Textiles.*—The Supermarket has a large selection of textiles, both mill-made and handlooms. Arrangements have been made to procure the products of all leading manufacturers like Binnys, Calico, Khatau, Finlays and Mafatlal and for sale at fixed prices.

*Drugs and cosmetics.*—Special arrangments have been made for the sale of all types of quality drugs and cosmetics. Baby and invalid foods will also be put on sale, though the quantity available may be restricted because of short supply.

*General merchandise.*—Special arrangements have been made in this department to sell consumer goods which are in short supply, e.g., cycle tyres and tubes, torch cells, etc. Stainless steel, plastic, glass and china ware will be procured directly from the manufacturers and sold at very reasonable rates.

The Supermarket has also a modern milk-bar on the ground floor and a cafeteria on the second floor. A roof-garden restaurant will be added shortly. The Madras State Co-operative Bank will be starting their branch in the premises of the Supermarket for the convenience of the public. The departments have a comfortable lounge for the convenience of the customers.

Kamadhenu has plans in the near future, to add additional departments like Sports goods, Toys, Books and Stationery, etc. It is dedicated to the ideals of the highest quality, lowest prices and courteous service to its customers. There is no doubt that, the Supermarket will be come a popular institution in Madras and will set the pace to the other similar Department Stores coming up in the State.

The President Dr. S. Radhakrishnan receiving Mr. Mahdi Elmandjra, Assistant Director-General of UNESCO, at a luncheon given by him at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, on September 28, 1966, to the delegates participating in the International Round Table on Jawaharlal Nehru recently held in the Capital. The Vice-President Dr. Zakir Husain (2nd from right) and the Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi are also in the picture.

heavy machinery, machine tools, development of irrigation, power, etc. The sustaining power of our industry was well exhibited during our recent conflict with Pakistan. After all one might as well ask as to why no development took place in these vital branches of industry before we adopted the industrial policy.

Another aspect of the industrial policy which is criticised by the protagonists of free economy is the emphasis laid on the development of basic heavy industries in the successive Five-Year Plans. Such an emphasis was inevitable if the long-term perspective is kept in view. Rapid industrialisation and diversification of economy was accepted as the core of development. And it was realised that if industrialisation was to be rapid enough, the country must aim at development of basic industries and industries which make machines needed for further development.

This called for substantial expansion in iron and steel, non-ferrous metals, coal, cement, heavy chemicals, etc. But while emphasising the importance of heavy industries, the need for consumer industries too has not been lost sight of. Our emphasis on rural industrialisation and development of small-scale industries aimed at not only increasing the supply of consumer goods but also at providing more gainful employment to the large number of the unemployed.

**Manpower utilisation**

Talking of utilisation of manpower resources I would like to mention that the policies laid down by Jawaharlalji aimed at providing maximum possible employment. In heavy industries, it was not possible to have labour-intensive units. But in consumer goods industries like textiles, leather goods, coir, etc., such a policy was not only possible but desirable. The critics of Nehru's policy

speak only in terms of rupees and paisa as to how cheaper it would have been to have adhered only to large-scale industries. It is agreed that in terms of money it would have been cheaper. But what would have been the cost in terms of human distress? Through this policy of encouraging small-scale industries we provided employment to millions of people. Imagine how much would have been the distress of the unemployed. I personally feel that it does not matter if we have to pay a little higher for our goods if that provides employment to a large number of poorer people.

**A misconception**

Of all the criticism what surprises me most is the one that the present economic difficulties and the galloping rise in prices are the result of Nehru's policies. I feel such a criticism exhibits a misconception of the price policies as enunciated in three Five-Year Plans. The price policy had twin aims, viz., to maintain a structure of prices to ensure investments in conformity with targets of the Plans and to prevent excessive rise in prices which would cause considerable hardship. The latter was no less important than the former. While appreciating the necessity of a slight rise in prices for faster growth, the Third Five-Year Plan stated that the price policy of the Government must aim at preventing any undue rise in the prices of essential goods which enter into the consumption of low-income groups.

Because of the predominance of agriculture in our economy the price fluctuations have always been directly dependent upon the agricultural harvests. The steep fall in prices during the First Plan, the tendency to rise during the Second Plan and the first three years of the Third Plan were the direct consequence of the performance of agriculture.

Even then the price rise during Jawaharlalji's time was not such as to cause alarm. During the period of 13 years, i.e., from the year 1950 to May 1964, when the great leader died, the general price index was up by 40 points only—that is a price rise of about 3 points every year. As compared to this performance over thirteen years what is the situation over the last two years? In these two years, the general index has gone up by more than 46 points, i.e., a price rise of about 23 points per year.

The Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi was accorded a warm welcome at Kathmandu, when she arrived there on her first State visit to Nepal on October 4, 1966. The Chairman of the Nepal's Council of Ministers, Shri Surya Bahadur Thapa was the first to greet the Prime Minister. On her arrival at Kathmandu airport the Prime Minister is acknowledging greetings of a large number of people who were present to receive her.

What does it show? Does it not show that the present price situation cannot be attributed to Jawaharlal's policies but to some other factors? If at all this situation reflects the policies, I would say that since Nehru's death we have been hesitant and halting in the implementation of his policies and this opportunity is being exploited by vested interests for personal gains.

**Is control necessary?**

Nehru has been criticised for thwarting the growth of industries through the structure of controls operating in the country. Such a criticism only shows that either the rationale of the controls has not been properly appreciated or because of these controls many unscrupulous elements have been thwarted in their designs to exploit the scarcity conditions for personal gains, who are now raising a cry for withdrawal of controls. It must be remembered that while undertaking planned development there is always a certain lag between the creation of new incomes and the increase in available supplies on which they can be spent.

This means that there must be a corresponding preparedness to adopt physical controls and allocations as and when necessary. This, as experience shows, cannot work unless they form a fairly integrated system. Jawaharlalji felt that if controls are administratively cumbersome and act as disincentive, lack of them would create inequalities and hardships to the prejudice essentially of classes that need production most.

Controls like industrial licensing, imports, distribution of scarce raw materials, etc., were necessary to ensure optimum utilisation of our scarce resources. Jawaharlalji never wanted controls as a matter of policy. They were his tools to ensure proper growth and a proper distribution of the gains of such development.

Before I conclude I would like to re-emphasise that the policies enunciated by Jawaharlalji and accepted as the basis for three Plans have been for the betterment of the masses. Increased production of goods and services, equality of opportunity, progressive reduction of inequality and avoidance of the concentration of economic power are essential pre-requisites of a socialistic society.

Exploitation of the masses can be prevented only by a State playing an increasingly dominant role in the economic life of the nation. We have to rely more and more on planned economy and dynamics of planned development of the country. Merely because the economy is experiencing stress due to unusual circumstances the national policies are not proved to be wrong. Any measures based on a shortsighted assessment of the ills of the economy are likely to do irreparable damage to the economy.

**Need of the day**

I would again reiterate what is needed today is not a holiday from planning or an abandonment of or even deviation from Nehru's policies, but their acceptance by all in the correct perspective and faithful and vigorous implementation of the objectives set forth in the three Five Year Plans.

The Five-Year Plans must not only push ahead the work of transformation of the economy but also ensure that more and more of the gains of development accrue to the common man. Without it even the success of democracy would be jeopardised. As Nehru himself said only a few months before his death, "Socialism is the inevitable outcome of democracy. Political democracy has no meaning if it does not embrace economic democracy. And economic democracy is nothing but socialism".

## Chief Minister Commends N.C.C. Cadets

*At an impressive ceremonial parade of 500 boys and girls of the National Cadet Corps of Madras and Pondicherry at Red Hills, near Madras recently, the Chief Minister of Madras, Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, took the salute.*

*On his arrival the Chief Minister was received by Commodore Claudius, Director, National Cadet Corps, Madras And Pondicherry Area, and Deputy Director, Lt.-Col. S.S. Chowdhary, and introduced to the Camp Commander, Lt. Col. S. J. S. Rajamanickam.*

*The Chief Minister witnessed the bayonet charge of a bayonet fighting team after the parade and went round the Camp. He commended the smart turn-out of the cadets and said that the training they received in the Camp would make them fit in life and would create self-confidence and self-reliance in them. He also expressed a wish that the Red Hills Area should be made a permanent site for N.C.C. Camps and parades.*

*The National Cadet Corps Camp is being held at Red Hills to select a contingent of 103 cadet boys and girls belonging to the three Wings of the National Cadet Corps for participation in the Republic Day Parade in New Delhi next January, out of the 1,400 cadets undergoing training. The selected cadets will be given intensive training later.*

# STUDENT INDISCIPLINE

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao, *Member, Planning Commission.*

*Convocation Address delivered at Madras University on September* 30, 1966.

It is with a deep feeling of humility that I rise to deliver this year's convocation address to the new graduates of the University of Madras. While I do not have the distinction of being a graduate of Madras University, it is the university of my father, my uncle and my wife. It is the university of the State where I was born and spent the early years of my childhood and boyhood. It is the university which is presided over by the doyen of India's vice-chancellors and the most distinguished of the country's working educationists. I am indeed overwhelmed by the honour done to me by this invitation and it is with a profound feeling of kinship and identification with you all that I am venturing to address you on this auspicious occasion.

**Unrest and disquiet**

It is because of this feeling of being at home and amongst friends that I have ventured to select as the theme of my address the delicate and somewhat explosive subject of student indiscipline. I would beg of my young graduate friends to bear with me when I do so, as I speak from my heart and from the long experience I have had as a teacher, an educational administrator, and the student's friend.

No one can deny that the student world of India today is in a profound state of unrest and disquiet. Student disturbances and student indiscipline have manifested themselves in all parts of the country, the latest example being my own university of Delhi where I have spent 21 years as a teacher, researcher, and administrator. Indeed, this phenomenon has assumed such dimensions that it has become a law and order problem, so much so that a committee has recently been appointed under the chairmanship of the Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation with two Inspectors-General of Police as its members to enquire into this aspect of the problem. I profoundly regret this development.

Student indiscipline is not just an exhibition of youthful exuberance nor can it be explained away as the foul work of interested outsiders, political or otherwise, who are trying to fish in the troubled waters of student unrest. Student indiscipline is a cultural, economic, sociological, and educational problem, which has got to be studied and analysed in an objective and scientific manner if we are to find the proper remedies.

A disease cannot be cured by treating its superficial symptoms or suppressing its manifestation by force. Suppression without understanding and acceptance by the suppressed is only likely to drive the phenomenon underground, to erupt into more violent manifestations when a suitable opportunity to do so presents itself to the suppressed. We need to understand the why of the phenomenon before we start on a programme of remedial measures; and understanding can only come from study and research. I know that some studies have been made of this subject, notably the University Grants Commission's Committee on the subject which reported in 1960; and recently the Education Commission has made some passing references to this subject in its otherwise most comprehensive report on the various aspects of our national educational problem.

**Lack of attention**

I am not satisfied that we have given this subject that measure of scientific and research attention that it requires. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government of India the desirability of appointing a national commission or committee to enquire into the whole subject. It should be headed by an eminent Indian sociologist and include in its membership not only experienced teachers and administrators from the field of higher education, but also from that of secondary education. It should also include representative student leaders, as in my opinion, student opinion should be represented not only in the giving of evidence but also in the entire study of the problem and the evolving of the necessary remedial measures.

The work of the committee should either be preceded or accompanied by specific research studies of some of the more important among the student

disturbances that have taken place during the last five years. This would give the committee the necessary scientific material that would help their understanding of the problem and enable them to recommend appropriate and realistic remedies. In the meanwhile, I would like to share with you my own rather inadequate analysis of the problem.

To begin with, we must remember that student unrest is not just an Indian phenomenon. In fact, it is a world-wide phenomenon, that represents the growing disillusionment of youth all over the world with the older generation. The young no longer have respect for the old. They do not believe us when we give them advice which they dismiss as sermonising. They do not find consistency between our practice and our professions. Fear of an atomic war that may wipe out human civilisation hangs like a black cloud that threatens their rising horizon, and they do not understand why the leaders of the world cannot find a way to a state of enduring peace.

**New current**

With the tempo of new current in the progress of science and technology, they find us out of date and antiquated even in terms of knowledge. They find our conservatism irksome and our social and cultural attitudes too rigid for their comfort. What we are witnessing all over the world is a conflict between generations, made sharper by the widening gap in their state of knowledge, their attitudes, practices, and even values. It behoves us of the older generation 'therefore' to show more understanding and imaginative sympathy towards the young than we have displayed so far. Discipline is good, but it must be evoked spontaneously rather than maintained by force.

Firmness is undoubtedly necessary, but it must be accompanied by understanding and a feeling on the part of the young that those who seek to discipline them have no other feeling for them except affection, compassion for their weakness and admiration for their courage that borders on recklessness.

Love is the key that can unlock the door to enduring and self-sustaining student discipline. As Swami Vivekananda said so many years ago in this very city of Madras : " Love opens the most impossible gates ; love is the gate to all the secrets of the universe ". I would plead therefore on the part of all of us who are in positions of authority or leadership to recognise that an essential condition for dealing with the problem of student indiscipline is to show a more sympathetic approach, not weakness or appeasement, but understanding, respect and affection.

Another aspect of the problem which needs to be studied is the large increase in student numbers that has taken place in recent years as also the vast changes that are taking place in its sociological and income composition. The increase in numbers has made personal contact between the teacher and the taught more difficult and led to a steep decline in inter-communication between students and teachers. Misgivings, misapprehensions and even legitimate grievances on the part of students do not come to the notice of either teachers or educational administrators, and problems which could have been easily solved, if detected at the outset, grow with neglect and create both surprise and shock when they burst into massive exhibitions of student indiscipline.

The changing complexion of the student body also aises problems of social, cultural, and emotional adjustment which are neither perceived nor dealt with by educational administrators. The speed with which we have gone ahead in our development planning has resulted in what may be called an 'education explosion' that has brought into the student world many recruits from the rural areas and from the low income groups. In many cases, they have come from families with no educational tradition and in far too many cases, their homes not only lack the necessary atmosphere but also the physical facilities for study and scholarship. They are bewildered by the urban complex in which they find themselves, the superior attitude and social distinctiveness of some of their fellow students, and the literal lack of the means with which to take advantage of the educational opportunities open to them and thus obtain fulfilment by an assertion of their intellectual personalities.

**Human relation**

It is good that the University Grants Commission has recognised this fact and tried to provide some facilities by developmental grants for hostels, [student day-centres, library buildings and book purchases. What has been done, however, is not enough, and more needs to be done, especially by the state governments who are directly responsible for collegiate education in their area. It is also necessary to provide for abridgment of the psychological distance between the teachers and the taught. This can be done only when colleges and universities are equipped with a specialised staff who will be expert in human relations and kept their ears constantly to the ground to hear even whispers of student rumblings.

It is not only factories that need personnel and industrial relations officers. Colleges and universities also need to be serviced by teachers specialising in human relations and trained to do so by the necessary equipment in sociology, psychology or social work. We need directors of student welfare in all institutions of higher education.

A third element contributing to student indiscipline is the fear of unemployment that hangs like a black

shadow over the student world when they complete their studies. Even when jobs are available, there is an uneasy feeling that extra-merit considerations play far too important a part in recruitment. And when jobs are actually obtained, rising prices and developing consumption standards cause disatissfaction with the scales of pay, and conditions of work for many of the newly employed graduates.

**Job opportunity**

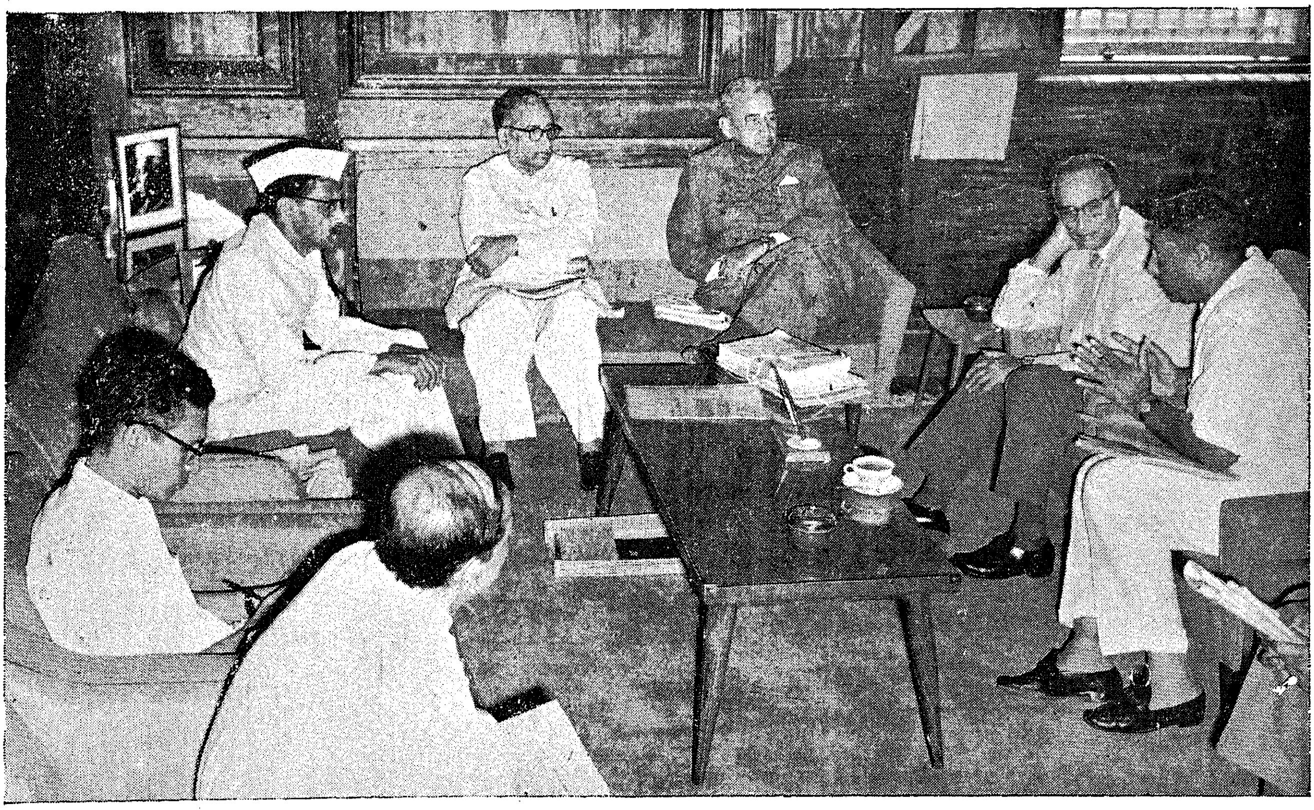
It is true that, with our five-year plans, there has been a vast increase in job opportunities in India. But it is also true that educated unemployment has been growing *pari passu* with development. A beginning has been made to deal with the problem of graduate employment by the setting up of University Employment Bureaux. But these do not cover all universities; even when they exist, their working is uneven and the numbers they cover but insignificant. Above all, they mostly leave out of account the vast numbers of graduates who come from colleges. Something more comprehensive and effective has to be done for dealing with this problem of graduate employment; and it has to be done at the collegiate and the university level. On the longer range side, education has to be linked more effectively with the employment needs of our developing economy. As suggested by the Education Commission, manpower planning has to be given a more positive role in the determination of syllabuses, courses, training, and numbers in the field of higher education.

A fourth factor I would like to mention is the quality of the education that we impart in our colleges. Overcrowding, insufficiently qualified staff and that too inadequate numbers, and inadequacies in equipment, including buildings, libraries, laboratories, and playing fields—all these have not only led to a deterioration in academic standards but also to lack of interest in studies and the creation of an unhealthy atmosphere in many of our colleges. To a large extent, this is the result of our attempt to force the pace of economic growth by planned development.

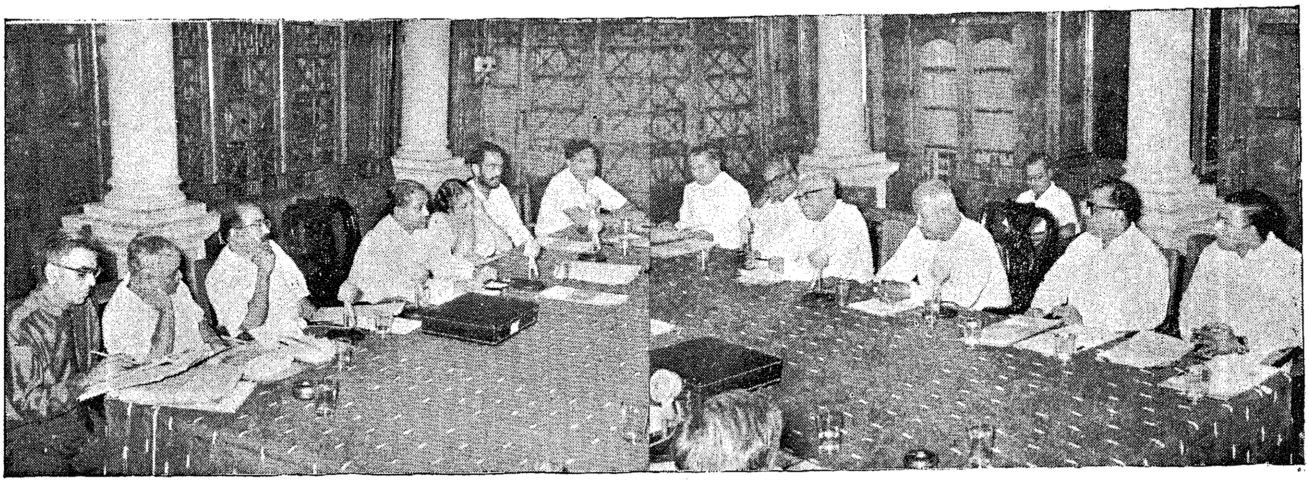
**Consolidation of quality**

Hence the emphasis I am placing, as Member in charge of Education in the Planning Commission, on consolidation and improvement in quality in educational programmes under the Fourth Plan. This educational deterioration cannot however be explained away merely on the basis of an unprecedented expansion in numbers.

The largest single problem harrying our student world today and indirectly contributing to their acts of indiscipline is the language problem·



The Union Minister of Home Affairs Sri G. L. Nanda (third from left) is discussing in New Delhi on October 6, 1966, the problem of student indiscipline with Prof. D.S. Kothari, Chairman, University Grants Commission (fourth from left), Mr. C. D. Deshmukh, Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University (third from right) and Major-General Virendra Singh, former Director, National Cadet Corps (extreme right).



Chief Minister and other Ministers snapped with the Study Team on Machinery for Planning which met under the Chairmanship of Sri R. R. Morarka, M.P., at Secretariat on 6th October 1966.

I am not referring here to the problem of Hindi. I am talking of the more strictly educational problem of the sharp break that occurs in the medium of instruction between the secondary and the collegiate stages and the difficulties our College students consequently find in understanding what they are taught, let alone expressing themselves in the English language. This dichotomy between the media of instruction at different stages of Indian education has to go if we are to release the creative energies of our young people.

**Non-student youth**

I am glad the Education Commission has given a bold lead in this matter and I hope their recommendations in regard to the medium of instruction will prove acceptable to my educational colleagues in all parts of the country. For my part, I would like to congratulate the Madras Government for the pioneering effort they have put in this field. It is not easy to change the medium of instruction at the higher stages of education. A host of problems are involved and much patience is required. I have no doubt, however, that one day our Indian languages will come into their own and be the vehicles of knowledge, instructions, and communication in the universities. When that happens, it will not only mean a new era in the development and utilisation of our human resources but will also help to solve the problem of student indiscipline in the country.

One more element that contributes to student indiscipline is our neglect of non-student youth belonging to the age-group of our college students. Many of them are employed in the cities and towns where colleges and universities are located, and some of them are unemployed. When student disturbances take place, some of them may be tempted to join in and it is very difficult to distinguish student from non-student.

If some positive action is taken by Government and voluntary organisations to look into the needs of non-student youth, especially in the urban areas, and provide them with welfare, cultural, and sports facilities, then it may go a long way in giving them a constructive channel for the utilisation of their surplus energies and remove the possibilities of their getting mixed up with student disturbances or otherwise aggravating them. I am glad to state that this question has been taken up by the Planning Commission and we have included in the Fourth Plan proposals for setting up a Central Youth Welfare Board and corresponding State Boards, specially for looking after the problems of non-student youth in the country.

**Politicians' role**

Before I make my observations on the student's own role in student indiscipline, I would like to make a reference to the part that politicians play in this matter. While I am not prepared to say that politicians incite students into acts of mass indiscipline, there is reason to believe that a few do lend them support. Of course, no one can keep the political parties out, when student disturbances develop into law and order problems and lead to lathi charges or firings. At the same time, there can be no denying the fact that their intervention often tends to aggravate the problem and makes its solution more difficult at the strictly educational level. Speaking as an educationist, I would appeal to all political parties to keep out of party politics the question of student indiscipline. If the parties could establish such an understanding and build up a convention that whenever any serious manifestation of student indiscipline takes place, they would get together to explore co-operatively its causes and its possible remedies, one of the factors that tend to aggravate this problem would have been removed.

Finally, I would like to turn to the students themselves. Is it not necessary that whatever grievances

or difficulties they have, they should bring them to the notice of their educational authorities in a constitutional and reasoned manner ? Should they not have a code of conduct in regard to their relations with their teachers, educational administrators, fellow students and the Government, such that demonstrations are peaceful; violence in both word and deed is avoided, and public property is not damaged or destroyed ? Is it correct on their part to dispute or question the right of academic authorities to determine academic standards in respect of matters like syllabuses, courses of study, question papers and examination results ? Is it right for a majority of students to play a negative or passive role and let a minority lead them against their better judgment into manifestations of mass indiscipline ; surely, educational institutions are not factories, students are not industrial workers, student bodies are not trade unions, and there is no class conflict between the teachers and the taught.

**A call to students**

Is it not without considerable difference that I am venturing to put these questions to the student community? If I do so, it is because of the distress and desperation I feel in the current context, and, as one who is not only a life-long friend of the student world but also as one who gives them understanding, affection and respect and expect them in return. I would suggest for the consideration of my young student friends that the time has come when they should get together, discuss and debate these questions calmly and without passion, and then arrive at their own answers. I have every confidence that when they do so, they would automatically find ways and means of ending the current state of student indiscipline wherever it exists. And they would do so without any exhortations or assistance or compulsions from their elders.

The students of today are the citizens of tomorrow. I am sure they are aware that without discipline, our nation cannot survive, let alone grow or develop, beset as we are by both external dangers and internal difficulties. Their stake in India is much bigger than ours who belong to what I often call the 'dying generation'. Their responsibility for guarding their inheritance is 'therefore' even greater than that of the older generation whose duty is only to transmit the inheritance. I have the sturdy faith that the heart of our student body is sound, and that once they reflect and brood over the what, why, and how, of our current student distrubances, they would themselves seek and apply the remedial measures necessary for restoring health to the body politic.

Graduates of the year, I congratulate you on your academic achievements and wish you a bright and prosperous future. May God Almighty, in whom I believe, shower upon you His choicest blessings and give you both the desire and the opportunity to serve this hallowed land of ours to which we all owe allegiance.

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## Impact of Farm Broadcasts on Rural Audience

*The impact of the special farm broadcasts, which were started in June last, was discussed in detail at a meeting of the Rural Advisory Committee of All-India Radio, Tiruchi, held recently.*

*Sri M. S. Gopal, Station Director, presided. Srimathi S. Soundaram, Deputy Director, Women's Welfare, and Sri M. D. Thiagaraja Pillai, Members of the Committee, attended. Officials of the Agriculture, Co-operation, Health, Education and Field Publicity departments of the State Government and from Pondicherry were present.*

*The Committee recorded its appreciation of the impact that these farm broadcasts had made in the last three months. They were particularly impressed by the success stories which were a regular feature of this new service and which had activised listening among the rural people, more specially among the farmers. It was further pointed out that since the introduction of the farm broadcasts projection among the rural folk of agricultural activities and operation could be placed on a systematic basis with the assurance that it would reach and influence listeners to take to more productive methods.*

*New features being introduced in the quarter beginning October-December,* 1966 *were welcomed by the Committee. Among these is a monthly feature on the third Sunday on rural youth ; another new monthly feature on the second Wednesday is the Radio Newsreel for Farmers on agricultural operations.*

# Small Industry Exhibition, Madras

The remarkable growth of the Small Scale Sector in recent years which contributes over a third to the national Industrial product through over 100,000 registered units, is illustrated by the Small Industry Products Exhibition which was opened in the Industrial Estate, Guindy, on October 6. The Exhibition was inaugurated by Sri K. Kamaraj, President, All-India Congress Committee.

The small scale sector, distinguished from the medium and large scale sectors, by the investment limit of Rupees five lakhs, has spurred a new class of enterpreneurs and highly qualified technicians with limited resources to enter the field. What is described as the Small Industry movement is conceived as the joint effort of three Organisations engaged in the field—the Association of Small Scale Enterprises, the State Directorates of Industries and the Central Small Industries organization. The sector has been assisted by various schemes under the Five-Year Plans in the form of factory accommodation, financial assistance, hire purchase of machinery and technical guidance from process know-how to start up.

The products displayed range from consumer goods to sophisticated end-products, radios, tape-recorders, electrical appliances, switches, high precision scientific instruments, etc. The Exhibition demonstrates the vigour and vitality of the new class of enterpreneurs who have entered sophisticated lines of production. For example the exhibition has assembled a whole range of electronic components manufactured in several small scale units both in Madras and other States. Though products from units in Madras form a high proportion, an effort has been made to secure samples of typical products from small scale units from other States.

The Exhibition has been jointly organised by the Small Industries Service Institute, the State Directorate of Industries and the Association of Small Scale Industries.

A special feature of the exhibition is a whole range of intermediates in the form of components and industrial goods supplied to large scale industries like the Automobile, Transport, Textiles and others, of machine tools and industrial machinery.

Exhibition is located at A-1 and A-2, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Madras-32. Area of the Exhibition is about 8,000 square feet. Approximately 200 exhibitors, exhibit approximately 1,000 items.

The aims of the Exhibition are: To show what the small industry is producing and indicate the direction of further development in modern and sophisticated lines of production;

to highlight the part played by Small Industry in the field of ancillaries;

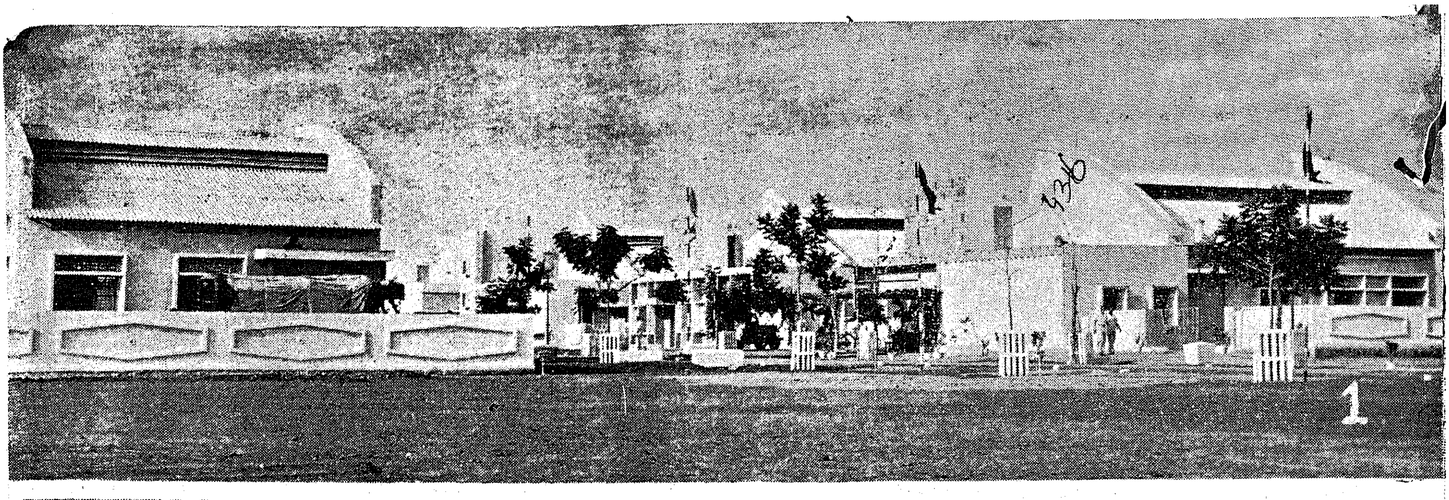
to attract entrepreneurs and industrialists both within and outside the country and to enable them to make trade enquiries for goods and services from small scale enterprises; and

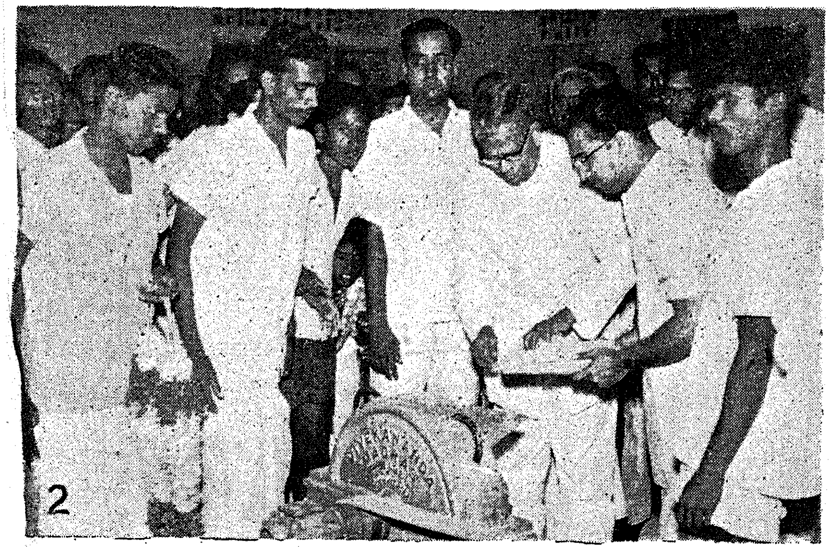
finally, to inform the community that the small scale industries movement has gained momentum and that it will effectively subserve the social and economic objectives of planned industrial development.

*Prominent exhibits—*

*Electrical.*—Alluminium die cast rotors for electric motors; electric motors of different H.P.; electric cables, switches and starters; electric fans and domestic electrical appliances; High tension line equipment for electrical transmission; Air compressors and welding transformers.

Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Chief Minister, receiving Mr. Ing. Jaroslav Kohout, Ambassador of the Czchoslovak Socialist Republic in India when the latter called on him in his Chambers at the Secretariat on 18th evening.



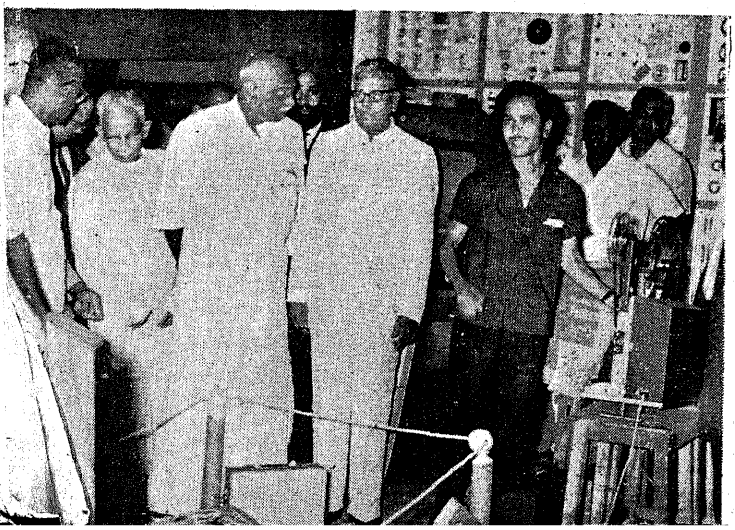


(1) View of the Industrial Estate, Sivagangai.

(2) Industrial Estate at Sivagangai (Ramanathapuram district) was inaugurated by Sri R. Venkataraman, Minister for Industries, on 30th September 1966. He is visiting the units of the Estate after inauguration.

(3) Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Chief Minister, Sri K. Kamaraj, Congress President and Sri R. Venkataraman, Industries Minister, going round the Small Scale Industries Permanent Exhibition inaugurated at Industrial Estate, Guindy, on 6th October 1966.

(4) Sri C. A. Ramakrishnan, I.C.S., Chief Secretary to Government of Madras lighting a " Kuthu Vilakku " to mark the inauguration of the State Civil Defence Training Institute, at Chetput, Madras, on 1st October 1966. Sri F. V. Arul, Inspector-General of Police and Sri Kuppuswamy, Director of Civil Defence, are looking on.



*Electronics.*—Tape recorders; tele-communication equipment; electronic testing equipment; amplifiers, loud-speakers, radios and components therefor.

*Machine tools.*—Standard machine tools such as lathes, drilling machines, woodworking machines, circular saw (metal cutting).

*Agricultural implements.*—Tractor drawn agricultural implements, pump-sets, sprayers, dusters and garden tools.

*Equipment required for poultry development—*

*Chemicals.*—Paints and varnishes, dyestuffs, printing and lithographic inks, etc.

*Plastics.*—Wide variety of industrial components made out of special plastics and other articles by injunction moulding, compression moulding, blow moulding and vacuum forming processes.

*Stainless Steel Surgical Instruments and Hospital requisites—*

*Leather.*—Finished leathers, garments leathers and quality footwear and leather goods.

Wide variety of ancillary items required for Automobile industry, Railways and Textile industry.

In 1958, the Government of India launched a nation wide campaign for the eradication of malaria with WHO's assistance. The campaign has been very successful and incidence of malaria has been reduced by 99·5 per cent.
A field worker is enquiring about malaria cases in a village near Madras and distributing anti-malaria tablets

# FACTS ABOUT THE SMALL SCALE SECTOR

91 per cent of the total enterprises registered as factories under the Factories Act, 1948 are small-scale enterprises.

Small-scale enterprises registered as factories accounted for 30 per cent of the total output valued at about Rs. 1,690 crores (1963).

Small-scale enterprises registered as factories provided employment to about 1·47 million persons, accounting for 36 per cent of the total factory employment (1963).

Small-scale sector accounted for the entire production in the country of items like clinical thermometers, bifurcated rivets, paper pins and gem clips, measuring tapes, machinical toys, spindle inserts, glass ampoules, plaster board, wood wool, pencil sharpeners, hair clippers, chalk crayons and artist's colours (1963).

Contribution of small sector in the national production of items like electric irons, wire netting and wire mesh, rolling shutters, gun metal bushes, shoe tacks, picking sticks, barbed wire, industrial brushes, snap fasteners, oil pressure stoves, polythene tubing, machine screws, upholstery, coil springs, hair pins, shoe eyelets, stapling machines, ball bearings, fountain pens, spectacle frames, pressure cookers, and metal clad switches was between 50 per cent and 99 per cent (1964).

An allocation of Rs. 114·83 crores was made in the Third Plan for the development programmes of small scale industries and Industrial Estates as compared to Rs. 55·57 crores in the Second Plan.

There are 16 Small Industries Service Institutes, 6 Branch Institutes, 60 Extension Centres, 3 Production Centres and 2 Training Centres under the C.S.I.O. (1966).

2,560 improved products designs and drawings and 230 proto-types and scale models (including dummies) were prepared by the Design Cell of the C.S.I.O. 10,89[illegible] blue prints and drawings were given to small-scale enterprises (1966).

12,164 persons have attended various managerial courses organised by the C.S.I.O. (1966).

83 in-plant studies of small-scale enterprises have been conducted by the C.S.I.O. (1966).

14,661 persons have been trained in technical trades by the C.S.I.O. (1966).

180 Industrial Estates with 3,598 factory premises are functioning (1965).

Several State Governments have organised their Departments of Industries with special arrangements for dealing with the Small Scale Industries Sector and assistance in many directions is now provided by the State Directors of Industries.

There are 13 State Small Industries Corporations for the purpose of distribution of scarce raw materials supply of machinery on hire-purchase basis and marketing assistance.

The National Small Industries Corporation has supplied 15,972 machines valued at Rs. 24·37 crores on hire-purchase basis (1966).

15,468 small scale enterprises are registered with the N.S.I.C. for participation in the Government Stores Purchase Programme (1966).

18,108 Government supply contracts valued at Rs. 103·79 crores have been secured by N.S.I.C. for small scale enterprises (1966).

Rs. 26·98 crores have been loaned to small scale enterprises under the various State Aid to Industries Acts (1965).

The State Bank of India has sanctioned Rs. 51·93 crores as working capital to 9,315 small scale enterprises (1966).

Subsidiaries of the State Bank of India have sanctioned Rs. 13·73 crores as working capital to 2,213 small scale enterprises (1966).

Rs. 18·30 crores have been sanctioned as loans by State Finance Corporations to 2,294 small scale enterprises (1965).

Uuder the Reserve Bank Guarantee Scheme 29,628 guarantees have been issued to cover advances amounting to Rs. 116·67 crores to small scale enterprises (1966).

About 1,000 small scale enterprises have been assisted in respect of export advice, pricing, presentation, etc., under the Export Aid to Small Industries (EASI) scheme of the State Trading Corporation. A wide variety of products like agricultural implements, G.P. sheet products, hand pumps, surgical and hospital wares, automobile leaf springs, steel furniture, bicycles and parts like bells, spokes, etc.; locks, G.I. buckets, spectacle frames, fountain pens, fancy leather goods, charcoal and electric iron presses, electrical accessories, intercommunication sets and amplifiers, paints and varnishes, sports goods, etc. have been exported under this scheme.

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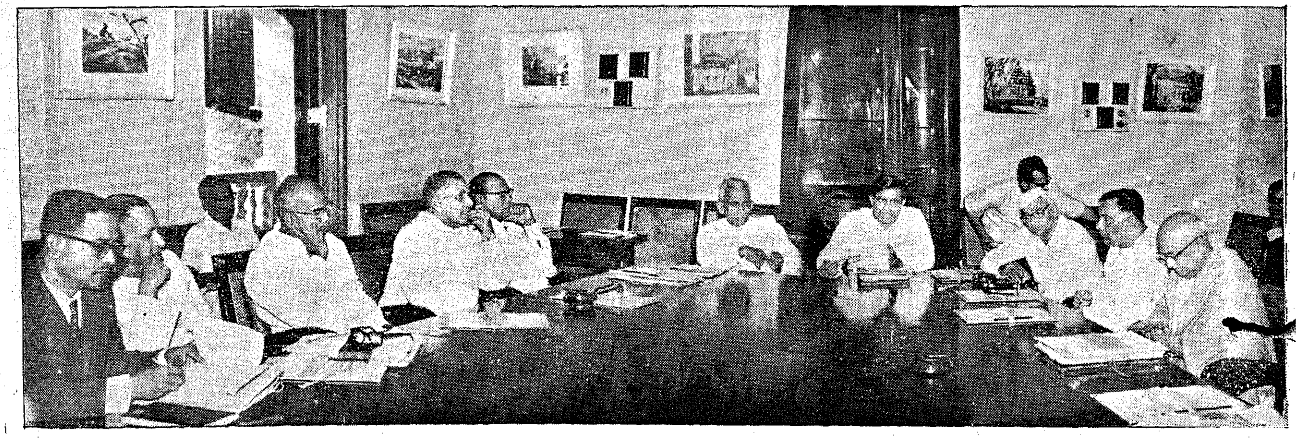

The Chief Ministers of Madras, Andhra and Mysore and the Governor of Kerala discussed food problems with Sri C. Subramaniam, Union Food Minister in the Cabinet Room at the Secretariat on 7th October 1966. State Food Ministers and officials also participated.

*In a recent chat with pressmen, Sri K. Kamaraj, President of the Indian National Congress, suggested that Government could help enterprising farmers who come forward to reclaim sandy tracts for food cultivation.*

*The following excerpts from the Maharaja of Travancore-Curzon Endowment Lecture in Agriculture,* 1965–66 *delivered by Professor M. R. Balakrishnan, F.A.O. Expert (Retired), at the Agricultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore on* 1*st,* 2*nd and* 3*rd February* 1966 *on "Increasing Agricultural Production" indicate the lines on which sandy tracts could be reclaimed for cultivating food crops.*

India has a long coast line, nearly 2,000 miles, from Calcutta on the east up to Cape Comorin in the south, then round it up to Gujarat on the west. All along this coast, there is a stretch of sandy soil, with some shrubs and xerephytic plants here and there. In most places, this sandy stretch is about a mile or two in width, but in some places it extends to five miles or more inland. Why not make use of this sandy stretch for future extension of agriculture ?

**Is it impossible ?**

The soil is all sandy and the fact that one cannot think of water facilities immediately is likely to discourage the idea. But is it impossible ? Have we thought of it ? Sand culture is known to thrive very well under laboratory conditions with nutrients added. In Israel, the sandy desert is being converted into fertile lands. And in Thailand, Prince Sabba Savit has actually demonstrated that the sand can be under use for productive purposes, if sufficient initiative and hard work are forthcoming. On the west coast of our country, Dr. R. M. Savur, a retired officer of the Madras Educational Department, tamed the sands of the Kerala coast and has been successfully raising Malta limes, tobacco, legumes and even grass as sod to gradually improve the condition of the soil. His was a daring venture which confounded the then experts of the Agriculture. South of Madras, in the village of Polavakkam some farmers are growing snake gourd very successfully on sea coast sand in limited areas.

I have seen in Bapatla taluk, Guntur district of Andhra State, crops being grown on such sandy soils. 'Duruvu' cultivation is in fact a feature of this tract. 'Duruvu' is the local name to the wells which are scooped out of the sand to obtain water for irrigation. Each 'Duruvu' commands an area of 2 to 3 cents each. Splash irrigation is the practice and the splashing is given three times a day, morning, noon and evening. The crops grown are, brinjal, chillies, gogu, some cucurbitaceous vegetables and nurseries of rice and tobacco. Occasionally a cereal crop like ragi is also raised. Heavy doses of fertilizer usually ammoniumsulphate are applied being dissolved in the pot of water and sprinkled on to the crop by hand.

**In Andhra State**

Although the water-table is high, in order to allow the farmer to go down into the well and bring up the pots of water, a comfortable slope is given ; this is necessary on account of the sandy nature of the soil, which would otherwise cave in. The yields are economically high and keep the farmer and his family in comfort. For example, I have noted farmers getting as much as 2,000 pounds of ragi per acre. On the farm attached to the Agricultural College, Bapatla, the same sandy soil is found and in the very first year of trials, MTU. 9 rice variety gave nearly 2,000 pounds per acre. In subsequent years, yields up to 3,000 pounds were obtained. 3,000 pounds of green leaf and 80 pounds of ammoniumsulphate were the manures applied.

All these instances in our country and elsewhere, show that it is possible to bring the coastal sands under fruitful cultivation. Because of the labour involved, chiefly for irrigation, only small patches are being cultivated by the farmers. The idea must be worked up on a larger scale by mechanising the irrigation, by the use of pumps and sprinklers. This is how underground water is being utilised in Israel. Annamese farmers in North-East Thailand use the simple devise of a pump worked by a bamboo wheel on sandy soils of this type, with a high water-table. The sprinkler method of irrigation is existing already in many countries, besides Israel, notably in Hungary and the U.S.A. Among other advantages the method ensures the economic use of water.

**Coastal sand**

Before the scheme of bringing the coastal sands is put into operation, a preliminary survey of underground water and supply is indicated. Already in Madras, the Ground Water Cell Engineers are doing valuable work with U.N. technical assistance. Their help and advice may be sought in this connection. So far as my experience goes, the water-table is likely to be reached at 5 to 10 feet from the surface, and the supply will be adequate.

There is also an impression that underground water near the seashore may be salty and may not be fit for irrigation crops. This impression is neither quite correct nor it is supported by evidence. You may all remember the famous verse of Avvayar, wherein she has stated, that while the sea is enormous, its water is not suitable even for taking a bath, a small spring in the neighbourhood, will have sweet and drinkable water. During the years, 1946 to 1949, I had an occasion to examine the waters of over a hundred wells in Bapatla, Chirala and Chinnaganjam in Guntur district, all within three to five miles from the sea. Occasionally I found wells with 100 to 200 parts of total salts per hundred thousand, but there were many with only 30 parts and less. The Railway Station well at Chinnaganjam, an important watering station on the North-East Railway had only 25 parts per hundred thousand, and this place was just 2 to 3 miles from the sea. The chief salt in all these wells was sodium chloride, and this is also an encouraging factor; the chloride ion is a very mobile ion and will easily drain away on the porous sandy soil. There is, therefore, absolutely no chance of alkalinity developing by using the water for irrigation.

All the same it is a good scientific approach to the subject, if along with the survey of ground water, an analysis of the water is included, so that we may assure ourselves of the quality of water and its suitability for irrigation. Even if the water is salty it does not matter for, there are a number of salt resistant crops. Tobacco, chillies, brinjals and ragi are known to relish salt water for their growth and there are also salt resistant varieties of rice, which can be raised on the sandy soil and irrigated with underground water.

**Glorious opportunity**

I strongly believe that this is a venture which we must examine with all seriousness. In Madras State, I feel that the work should start with Ramanathapuram district and if found successful on a small area, may be extended to other areas. Madras has always been in the forefront in a number of schemes connected with increasing crop yields, and here is a glorious opportunity to show our mettle. The start may be beset with difficulties but that should notdiscourage us. Those who attempt this work must not complain of want of facilities or personal comfort for two or three years in the beginning. We saw how the Dutchmen created land out of the sea and made it productive. Is taming the sand going to be more difficult than what the Dutchmen had to face and surmount? An army of dedicated men with a will to work, can show the world what the people of this country can achieve in the face of difficulties.

With the pressure on the land increasing, possibly hereafter, the population in many countries will have to migrate towards the sea. The sand has so far been considered infertile, but many crops can be raised. If cantaloupes can be grown with much profit as in Thailand and if the deserts of Israel can be converted into verdant garden land, why not the coastal areas in Madras? If we are successful, as we should be, we shall be adding considerably to our cultivable area. If rice cannot be grown, ragi may be attempted. Groundnut, vegetables, sweetpotato, kanaf jute, soyabeans, cashewnut, breadfruit, and even cotton are all possibilities which conjure up in my vision.

This idea may not be dismissed as a fantastic dream. Many accomplishments, which we take as ordinary commonplace today, were considered fantastic, when they were first mooted. H.G. Wells's "First Men in the Moon" was considered only as pleasant light reading when it was first published. Today, we have come to realise the possibility of some of our generation reaching there soon. The late Dr. H. C. Bhaba whose tragic death in air crash we all lament today, predicted several years ago, that atomic energy for peace purposes would be made available by the fusion method combining hydrogen isotopes, avoiding the fission method of splitting the atoms, wherein there is the danger of atomic fall-out; he said this fusion method will be possible if man could think of a device for creating high temperatures of several million degrees centigrade.

Today, his prediction is nearing accomplishment with the ZETA instrument in U.K. capable of creating temperatures of 1,000 millions degrees centigrade.

**Meet the challenge**

Another noted countryman of ours, Mr. Kunwar Sain the distinguished Engineer, foresaw the possibility of irrigating the deserts of Bundlekund and Jaisalmers. Today, the Rajasthan Canal Development Board is making this an attainable possibility. The Soviet Geographer and Academician, Praslov, several years ago forecasted that if the desert area covering the surface of the world, could be irrigated and reclaimed, the annual production from billion acres of desert land so reclaimed will feed a population of 25 billions.

Let these great ideas inspire us and put courage into us. Land is there and capital, we will find; let us not bother about these. Let us raise human labour to the highest level of efficiency possible. It is here we have to meet the challenge.

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## Implementation of Fishery Schemes by Panchayats

*The Government have issued instructions to the Panchayat Union Councils to draw up schemes under Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries. Accordingly the Panchayat Union Councils have drawn up among others, fisheries scheme. The scheme drawn up by the Panchayat Union Councils have been reviewed both by the Director of Fisheries and the Director of Rural Development. The blocks have been grouped into four categories according to their potentialities for fishery development.*

*The Government have accepted the suggestion and have directed that the following schemes should be implemented by the Panchayat Union Councils from the year* 1966–67 *in accordance with the classification of Panchayat Union Councils :* (1) *Distribution of nylon, floats, etc., to individuals;* (2) *Improvement of fish markets;* (3) *Renovation of tanks for fish culture;* (4) *Construction of fish nurseries;* (5) *Maintenance and operation of fish nurseries; and supply and distribution of fingerlings.*

*The schemes form part of Agricultural Grant Scheme, comprising Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries for which the Government will place with each union a sum of Rs.* 2 *lakhs as grant for a five-year period commencing from April* 1966. *The Panchayat Unions are required to match this amount with a contribution of Rs.* 50,000. *So, a total sum of Rs.* 2,50,000 *will be available for each Panchayat Union for implementing schemes on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Development.*

*For* 1966–67, *the following provision, for each union has been made in the State Budget for Fisheries Schemes under the Agricultural Grant :—*

*In Class I—Rs.* 1,500; *In Class II—Rs.* 2,000; *In Class III—Rs.* 1,100; *In Class IV—Nil.*

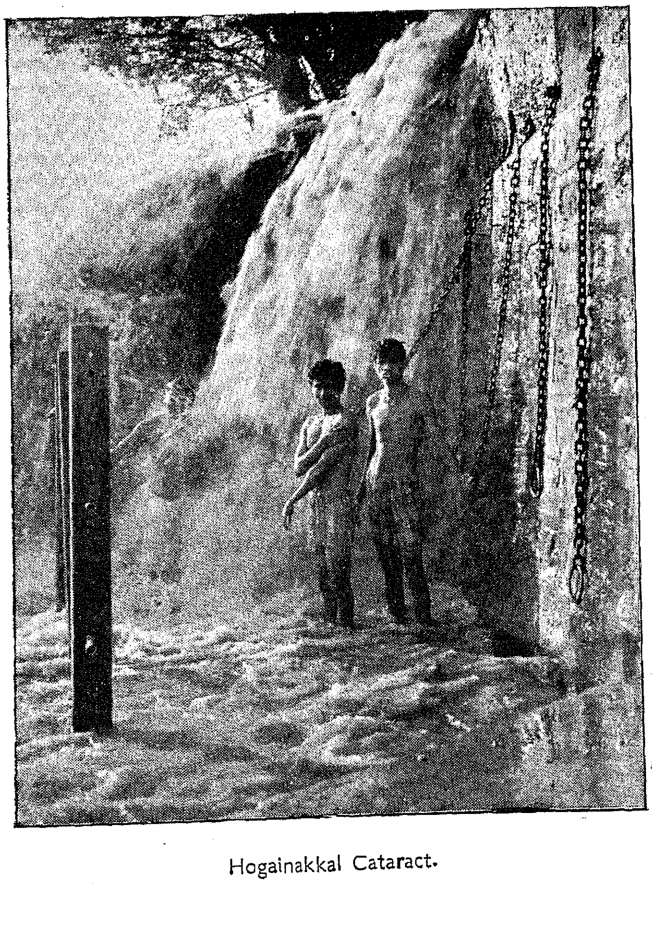
*First Anniversary*

# PROGRESS and DEVELOPMENT OF Dharmapuri

Sri G. THIRUMAL, M.A., I.A.S., *Collector, Dharmapuri.*

The first anniversary of the formation of the Dharmapuri district was observed on October 2, 1966. During this one year, many improvements have been made in the educational as well as in other sectors. Firm foundations are being laid to ensure the proper growth of the district in all respects. All the nation building activities are receiving the closest attention of the Government.

The Dharmapuri district was formed on October 2, 1965, with four northern taluks of old Salem district, viz., Hosur, Krishnagiri Harur and Dharmapuri. Salem district before bifurcation was the biggest district in Madras State. Therefore, when the question of bifurcation of districts was thought of by the Government to make them viable units, Salem received the first attention. Besides, there was a feeling among the public that the northern taluks were not receiving as much attention as they should.



Hogainakkal Cataract.

There is no denying the fact that the northern parts of Salem, now Dharmapuri district, had remained a backward region of the State compared to other areas, both in respect of education and other amenities to the public. The bifurcation of the district has brought the immediate benefit of bringing the people closer to the Government than ever before and thereby to understand their aspirations.

**Physical features**

The headquarters of the district is located at Dharmapuri and the Sessions Court at Krishnagiri. Some of the district offices are located at Krishnagiri. This policy has helped the growth both of Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri and there is a steady spurt in building activities in both the places. The Collector's office and the office of the Superintendent of Police now in rented buildings would be moved to their own new premises in Dharmapuri shortly. These two buildings are in an advanced stage of construction. A new life and briskness have come to the people after the formation of the district.

The district has a very pleasant climate with a mild temperature in Hosur area all the year round as in Bangalore. Hosur and Thali can be developed into attractive summer resorts. Thali is known as "Little England" because of its beautiful setting.

The district with an area of 3,717 sq. miles has extensive hilly and rocky areas with undulating plains. It may be broadly divided into two natural zones. The first is the Balaghat area which is a continuation of the Mysore table land comprising the taluk of Hosur and the north-western portion of Krishnagiri taluk.

The second is the Baramahal bounded on the north by portions of the Mysore plateau and running south into the taluks of Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri and Harur.

According to 1961 census, the population of the district is 1,356,554. The density of population per sq. mile is 279 in Hosur taluk, 467 in Krishnagiri taluk, 303 in Harur taluk and 396 in Dharmapuri taluk. The people of the district present varying cultures. This is but natural considering the fact that it was under the rule of Tamil Kings first, then under the Pallavas and later under the Rashtrakutas, then under the Cholas, and in the 14th century under the rule of Vijayanagar Kings. By about 1630 A.D. Muslim Sultans of Bijapur and Golkonda had made inroads into this region. Then the area passed under the Mahratta Kings. Recently Hyder Ali and Tippu Sultan had sovereignty over the area until it passed into the hands of the British after the Mysore Wars. Canarese, Telugu and Hindustani are spoken by the people though Tamil is the predominant language in all the areas.

The chief rivers are the Cauvery and the South Pennar. The Cauvery enters the district at the south-western corner of Hosur taluk. At Hogainakkal, the Cauvery cascades among rocks in a narrow valley thereby forming into small waterfalls. Thin mistlike formations are raised in these falls, which has given rise to the popular name, Hogainakkal (smoke-like stone).

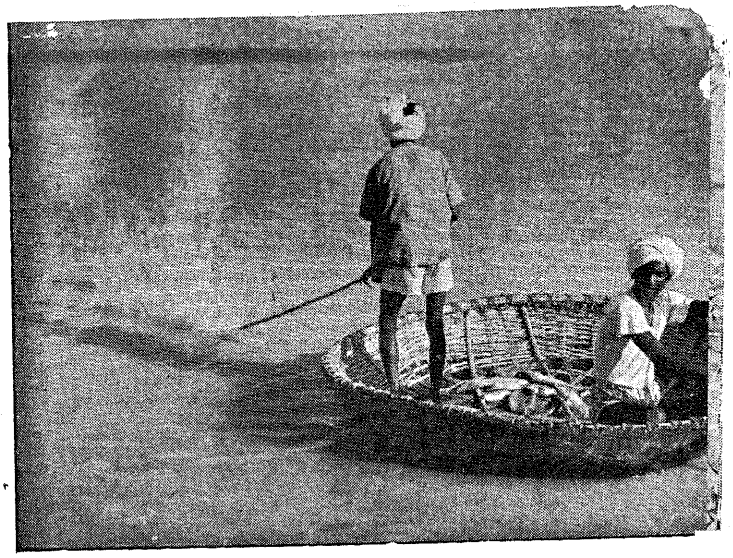
**Contribution to Defence**

This district has contributed much to the defence of the country in its resources of men, standing next only to North Arcot in the State. It can legitimately feel proud of its contribution to the armed forces of the country, Krishnagiri taluk alone taking a lion's share in the contribution.

The district got the first prize for the year 1965 for having collected the highest amount under the small savings scheme in relation to its population. During 1966 also, already the targeted amount has been reached and collections are expected to go up in the coming months. Its quota of the State loan recently floated was also overreached, thus proving that it is not lagging behind others in the National Reconstruction.

Agriculture is the main occupation of the people of this district. The ryots of the district have not been slow in taking up improved methods of cultivation. The popular A.D.T. 27 paddy is spreading in the district and a ryot named Mr. Chennan belonging to Dadampatty has produced 6,996 lb. per acre of this variety. Such demonstrations of high yield have produced confidence among the ryots.

The total cultivable area of this district is 10,26,040 acres and out of which 1,63,057 acres come under irrigation. Under irrigated conditions crops like paddy, sugarcane, banana, chillies, coconut and vegetables are grown. Cumbu, gingelly, cholam, ragi, groundnut and cotton are grown under unirrigated conditions. The area under fruit trees especially mangoes is large in Krishnagiri taluk and is still growing every year.



Fishermen going in "parisal" for fishing in Krishnagiri reservoir.

Groundnut is an important commercial crop and is grown in about 80,000 acres. Application of fertilisers to rainfed groundnut was unknown to ryots until a few years ago. Due to constant propaganda and by laying out a number of demonstration plots in various parts the effect of applying fertiliser to groundnut has been felt now by the ryots. To enable the ryots to purchase fertilisers about Rs. 14 lakhs were disbursed as loans during the Third Plan period alone. Every year about 5,000 to 6,000 bags of improved seeds are being distributed to the ryots.

**Horticulture**

One of the agro-industries which would bring prosperity is the proposed 1,250-ton-per-day capacity co-operative sugar factory at Palacode. Already steps have been taken to collect the share-capital of Rs. 40 lakhs from the agriculturists. The balance amount would be contributed by the State Government and the other financing corporations. This factory incorporating the latest advances in the sugar industry would bring direct benefits to the ryots and indirect benefits to others in the district. This factory would be one of the largest in Madras State and the seventh in the co-operative sector.

Horticulture is one of the most popular schemes. About 11,000 acres are under orchards and raising mango is very popular. In Krishnagiri taluk all dry lands are being brought under mango cultivation. Loans and other facilities are given for this purpose. The model orchard-*cum*-nursery started at Thimmapuram in 1952 in an area of 27 acres is now supplying quality seedlings of mango, citrus varieties, grapes, etc., to the ryots.

Among vegetables cabbage, cauliflower and other English vegetables are grown in Hosur taluk and in other districts brinjals, beans, tomatoes, cluster beans, bendai, etc., are grown.

As the major area of the district has to depend on the vagaries of the monsoon, well-subsidy scheme has been pushed through year by year. Under this scheme loans were given for 271 new wells in 1963–64, 365 in 1964–65, 588 in 1965–66 and 882 in 1966–67 (i.e., from April 1 to June 30). It can be said that the largest benefit accruing to the district after bifurcation is in the shape of well subsidy being granted by the Government. This district has received during the past one year alone what it has totally received during the past eight or nine years, considering the needs of the district and its backwardness, Government has been very liberal in this respect, as wells alone holdout prospects of increasing the prosperity of the people of this district. Similarly loans were distributed for 121 pumpsets in 1963–64, 121 in 1964–65, 159 in 1965–66 and 240 in 1966–67 (i.e., from April 1 to June 30).

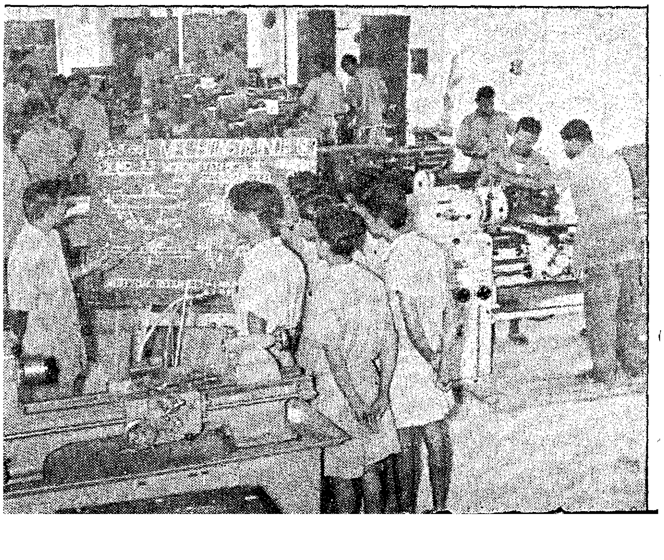
Also electric power supply to agricultural pumpsets increased from 165 under the First Plan to 3,583 under the Third Plan. The total number of villages and hamlets electrified so far in this district is 727. All the villages having a population of more than 5,000 have been electrified. More and more villages are getting electricity according to a phased programme.

### Livestock Improvement

The district has a total of 990 sq. miles of forests. The chief products are sandalwood and bamboo. An annual revenue of Rs. 1·50 lakhs is derived from the sale of bamboos. The revenue from sandalwood has dwindled due to the spike disease. About Rs. 50,000 is realised by allowing grazing rights in these forests.

The Hosur Cattle Farm is famous throughout India. Established in 1937, it maintains the purity of essential breeds of cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry whose male stock are distributed for grading up local stock especially in Panchayat Union areas. The district has a large population of sheep and cattle, especially of Hallikar variety. The Director of Animal Husbandry has taken special interest in the expansion of facilities at the veterinary hospitals and in increasing its members. Many new dispensaries have been opened recently.

Industrial Training Institute, Hosur



Poultry improvement, co-operative marketing, soil conservation, village industries, etc., have also received much attention and significant progress has been made in all these spheres.

The district is well served by the co-operative movement. The co-operative marketing societies in the district are practically the backbones for the Civil Supplies Department managing both the procurement and the distribution of foodgrains. They have helped greatly the Civil Supplies position. A district consumer's co-operative society with a share capital of Rs. 1 lakh will be registered shortly and already share capital has reached almost the targeted amount. A noteworthy feature is that the ordinary people of the villages have participated in these societies in large numbers and thereby helped the Government in its activities.

### Irrigation facilities

There are no major irrigation sources or major rivers which could be harnessed for agriculture. There are several sources (anicuts, tanks, etc.) which breached during unprecedented rains in the past and abandoned The district has to depend upon these rainfed sources only for irrigation. The only major project executed under the First Five-Yerar Plan is the Krishnagiri Reservoir Project across the South Pennar river which has stabilised irrigation for 3,760 acres and brought 5,240 acres under irrigation. Another tankfed area is the Barur tank ayacut. Consequently large parts of the districts are dry lands and they have to depend on the North-East and South-West monsoons. There are a number of minor irrigation tanks and a few major irrigations tanks. The average rainfall of the district ranges from 30 inches to 32 inches. The major portion of the rainfall is distributed during the North-East monsoon from September to December and some showers are received during the South-West monsoon period.

Special attention is being paid to the development of minor irrigation projects by the Special Minor Irrigation staff and the Food Production Division. Schemes have been drawn for 789 projects. Of these, 3 were completed under the First Plan, 122 under the Second Plan and 88 under the Third Plan at a cost of Rs. 20 lakhs. Now 47 schemes are being executed at a cost of Rs. 15 lakhs. When these works are completed a number of new tanks would have been formed and old ones reconstructed, particularly in Hosur and Krishnagiri taluks. One hundred and eleven schemes are now proposed to be undertaken at a cost of Rs. 20 lakhs under the Fourth Plan.

There are no big industrial projects. Khandasari is manufactured in the private sector. The district has high potential for starting sago factories, as tapiaco

is cultivated in an increasing scale in certain parts. Large tracts of the district are suitable for the cultivation of tapioca. Now the tapioca grown here is finding a ready market

### Industrial Estate

An Industrial Estate at Krishnagiri was established in an extent of about 40 acres at a cost of Rs. 9·69 lakhs to accommodate 12 units. Seven of these units have been let out to industrialists. There is enough space in the site to accommodate additional buildings in the future depending on the demand. A carpentry workshop and a cycle unit are also functioning at Krishnagiri. Hosur will have an Industrial Estate with nine units under the Fourth Plan.

Messrs. All Steel Industries Corporation, Limitted at Doddampatty (Harur taluk) is the only large-scale industry functioning in the private sector. It is producing alloy steel such as high speed tool steel, tungsten steel, etc., out of scarp. Its annual licensing capacity is 50,000 tons. It has concluded an agreement with an American firm to enlarge the factory and to invest Rs. 5 crores.

Sheep-rearing for wool is another important occupation of the people as the extensive pasture lands and hill slopes provide grazing grounds for them. Improved varieties of sheep such as Mandya Mechari rams have been distributed to improve local variety. Cattle-rearing is another occupation in the northern parts of the district.

### Education

The State Housing Board propose to set up a unit at Dharmapuri for the construction of one hundred middle income and low-income group houses to relieve the house shortage at the new headquarters.

With the spread of education and the opening of an Industrial Training Institute at Hosur, scope for starting small-scale industries has enlarged. Weaving is also another occupation though on a small scale. There are a number of weavers' co-operative societies.

There are no known resources of mineral wealth which could be exploited advantageously. Occurrence of iron ore and copper were reported in the Thirthagiri hill regions.

The district has made spectacular progress under the Five-Year Plans in the field of education. The number of elementary schools increased from 909 under the First Five-Year Plan to 1,509 under the Third Plan. The school going children also rose from 75,421 to 147,343. The high schools increased from 25 to 81, the students also increasing from 6,052 to 37,906 in all the classes.

The Government Arts Colleges, one at Krishnagiri and the other at Dharmapuri, have brought the scope of higher education nearer to the youth of this district. Ten years ago this was an undreamt of possibility. The colleges have a strength of 420 and 249 respectively

Women at work in a match making unit under the Village and Khadi Industries Board, Hosur.

as on July 1. 1966. Proposals for putting up permanent buildings for these colleges have been drawn up and already lands have been acquired or in the process of acquisition.

### Social Welfare

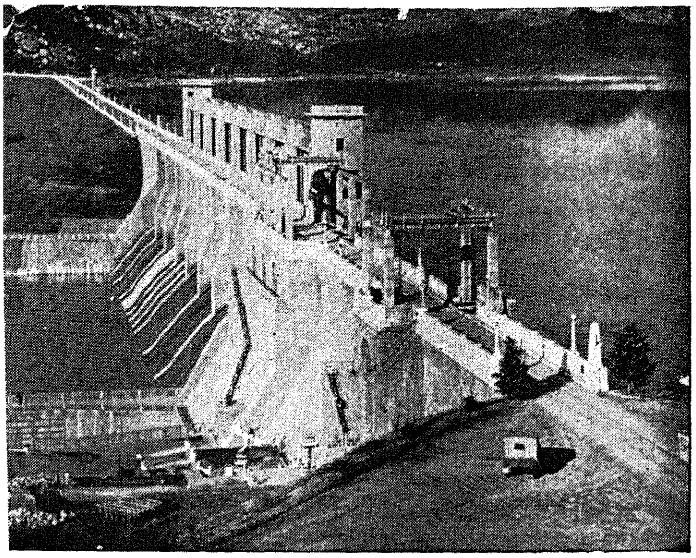
An Industrial Training Centre at Hosur started functioning from May 1964 and it gives training in the trades of Fitter, Machanist, Mechanic (Instrument and Motor), Turner, Welder (Gas and Electric) and Wiremen. It has a sanctioned strength of 156 in all these trades and has already turned out 171 students. Dharmapuri will have a separate institute shortly.

*Madhar Sangams.*—A new spirit in the activities of Madhar Sangams has been noticed and already 14 Madhar Sangam buildings have been completed. The women of the district are taking keen interest in the social welfare activities and have contributed much in the Small Savings campaigns.

*Health and Family Planning.*—It is proposed to construct a District Headquarters hospital at Dharmapuri with 200 beds in a new site. The district stands first in the whole of Tamilnad in the number of vasectomy operations done in the Primary Health Centres as part of the Family Planning Programme. As against a target of 3,738 cases set by the Government, 30,596 operations have been done up to the end of August 1966.

*Harijan Welfare.*—Harijan Welfare has received the special attention of the Government and the district has received bigger allotments than the previous years, when it was a unit of Salem district. Special attention is being paid to provide hostel facilities, educational institutions and other social welfare measures. Now there are ten hostels for boys and three for girls. A new hostel will be opened shortly at Hosur.

Pattas are granted and lands assigned to the landless poor and Harijans as well as the Service personnel. In the course of the past two months alone more than 2,000 such pattas were granted.



A view of the Krishnagiri Reservoir in the Dharmapuri district.

There are 16 panchayat unions and 2 municipalities, Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri. There are eleven Town Panchayats.

The district has 591 village panchayats and 16 panchayat union councils. Panchayat administration has helped the people to fulfill their long-felt local needs. A rapid development of elementary and high school education, health facilities, communications and improvement in agriculture and livestock have been noticed during the Plan periods.

Dharmapuri district is well connected by roads. An important link is the new Salem-Bangalore metre gauge railway line which cuts across almost the middle of the district linking the district capital with Bangalore in the north and Salem in the south. This new railway line is expected to be completed by December 1967 but a part of it from Salem to Dharmapuri will be opened to traffic even earlier. Work in this connection are proceeding briskly. When the whole section is completed it will link Poona in the north via Bangalore and Tuticorin in the south. The vast potential of this transport system cannot be guaged at present. However, Dharmapuri district will stand to benefit greatly from this new railway link.

The district has now a wide net work of good roads subserved by well-metalled village roads. The length of motorable roads is 853 miles and 7 furlongs. Road development has led to the opening of a number of bus routes even to the remotest areas. During this year ten new permits have been granted so far and twelve other new permits will be granted shortly. Proposals are also on hand for the grant of 29 permits for 28 new routes before the end of this year. When all these routes are granted the progress in bus transport alone will be registering an increase of 42·5 per cent from the date of bifurcation to the end of this year. This is stupendous achievement for a district of this nature. The first town bus was introduced in Dharmapuri this year and soon Krishnagiri town also will have

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this facility. When the new routes are opened, Hogainakkal, the tourist spot will be connected by bus from all points of the district.

**Tourist places**

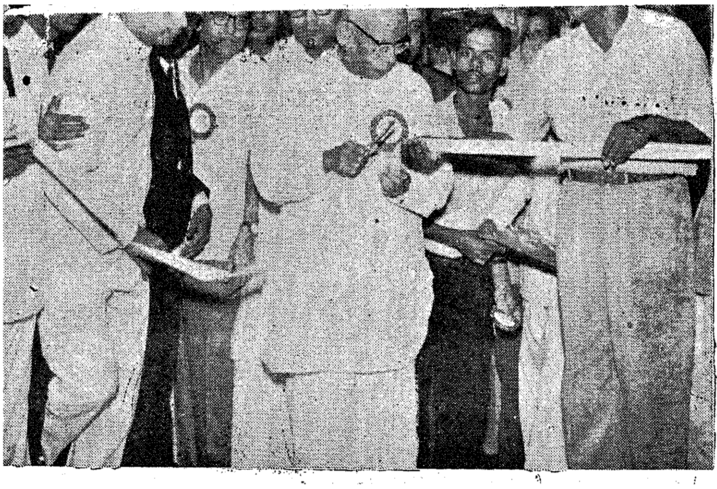
**Hogainakkal** is the main tourist attraction in the district drawing people from far and near throughout the year. It is 29 miles south-west of Dharmapuri town. Regular buses are plying to the place from Dharmapuri. People consider it very sacred to take bath at this place. Besides, the natural scenery at this place gives solace and peace of mind. At present there is a tourist bungalow under the control of the Highways Department. Proposals have been sent to Government to construct a Tourist Rest House which, when completed, would be attracting still larger crowds.

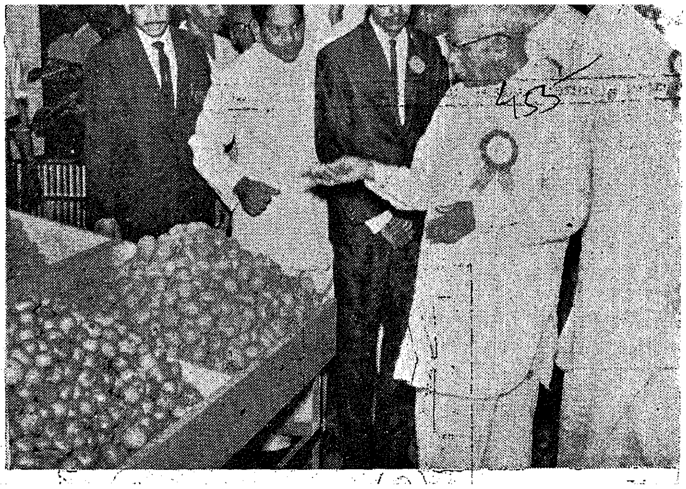
Thirthamalai in Harur taluk is an important pilgrim centre. It has a hoary tradition connecting it with the story of Ramayana. Nearby is Hanuman Thirtham where a natural spring rises from the river bed. This water is said to contain minerals which cure many diseases. Thirthagiri temple situated at the footsteps of the mountain by the same name attracts pilgrims throughout the year and a large number on special occasions. A climb on the hill leads to another temple on the mountain slope where water jets through a rock crevices throughout the year. Pilgrims take bath in this water-jet which is crystal clear. This hill slopes are thick with green forests and a look from the top of the hill is an unforgettable experience. The South Pennar river meandering its course at a distance and the surrounding hills and green forests lend a charm which is unique.

Chandrasudeswarar temple on a hillock in Harur town is another famous Hindu pilgrim centre, attracting people throughout the year. Krishnagiri Reservoir Project is another tourist attraction. The beautifully laid-out gardens are eagerly sought by the tourist as well as week end picknickers.

The Chief Minister, Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, who recently inaugurating the District Publicity Unit here, remarked that though the district might be called backward there was no dearth of intelligent persons or initiative among the people. No other fitting tibute could have been paid to the people of this district who, by their enthusiasm and hard work have proved that they can shoulder the increased responsibilities and take the district forward in all spheres. This has been proved well in the agricultural sector, for the scarcity of foodgrains felt in other areas has not been felt here. The district is more or less self-sufficient. The rains this year have been very helpful to the ryots and a good harvest of cholam, groundnut and paddy is expected.

The Fourth Plan should prove more fruitful to this district and usher in a new era of prosperity and well being of the people.





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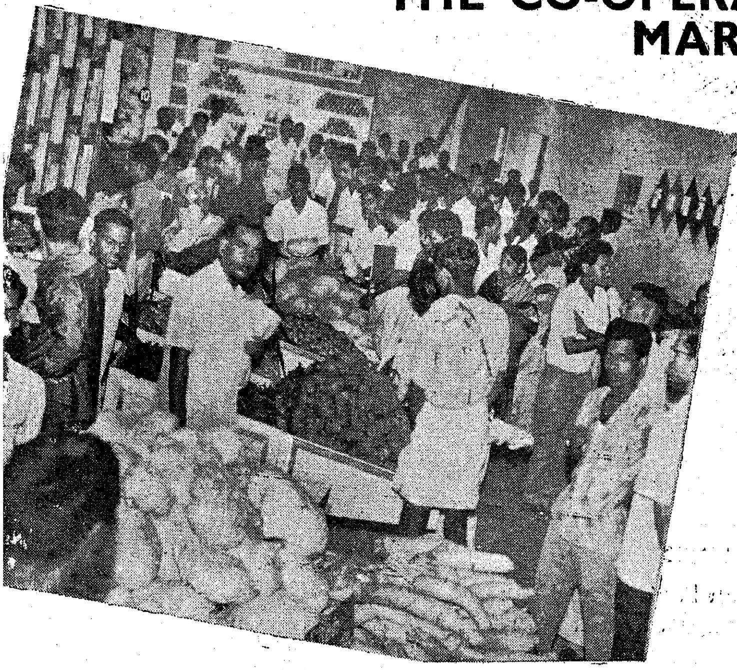

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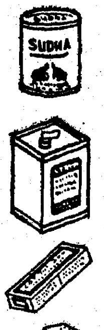


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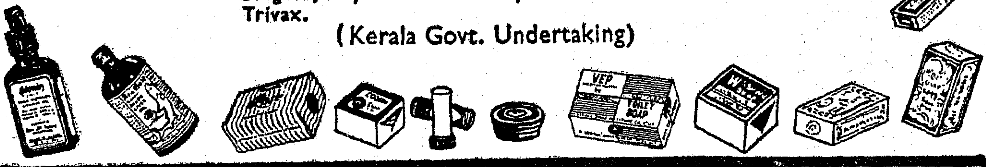


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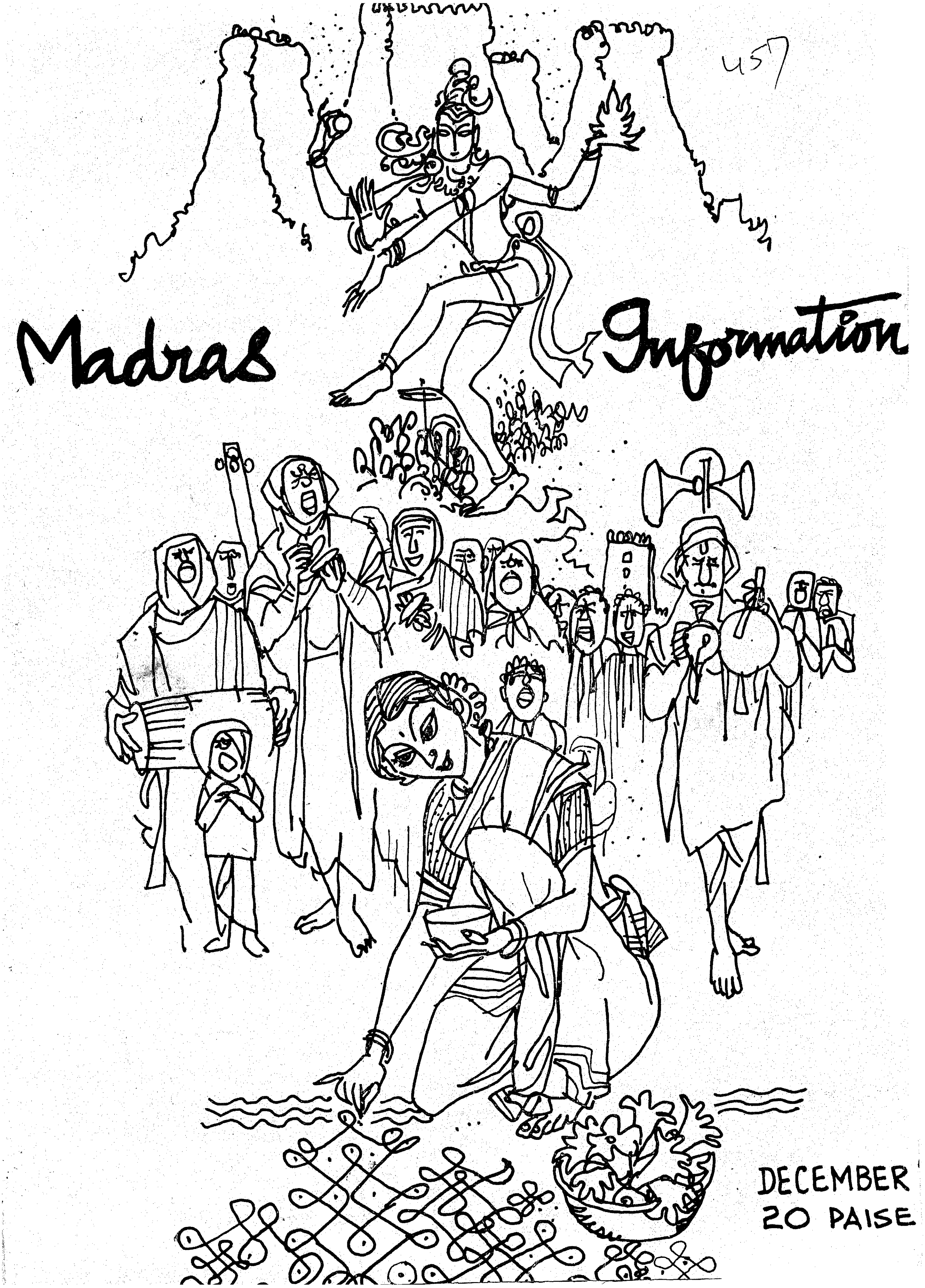
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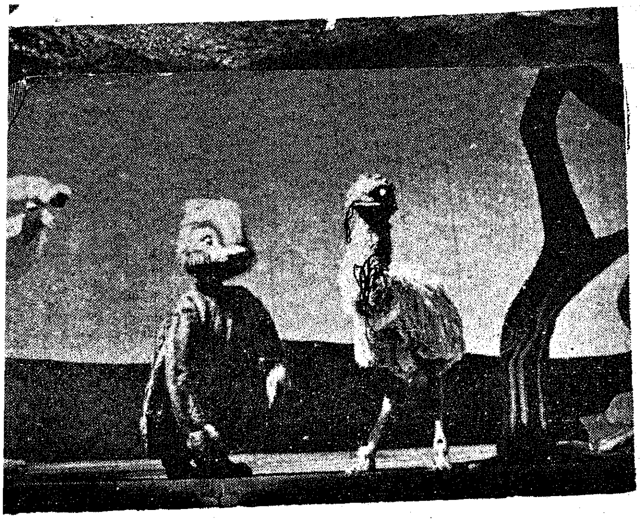
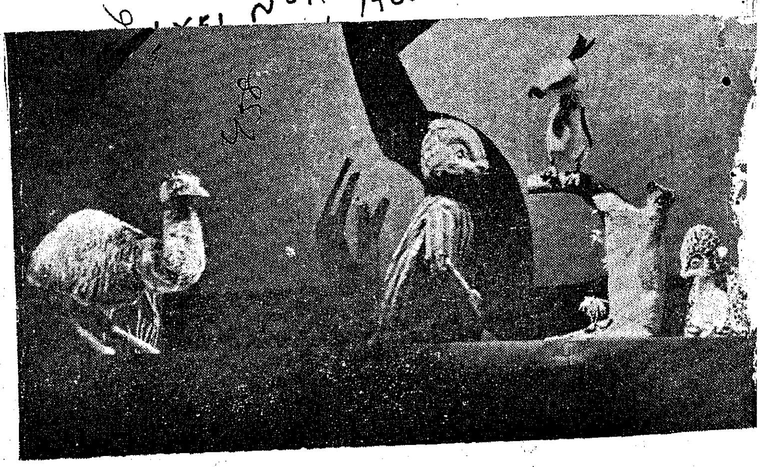
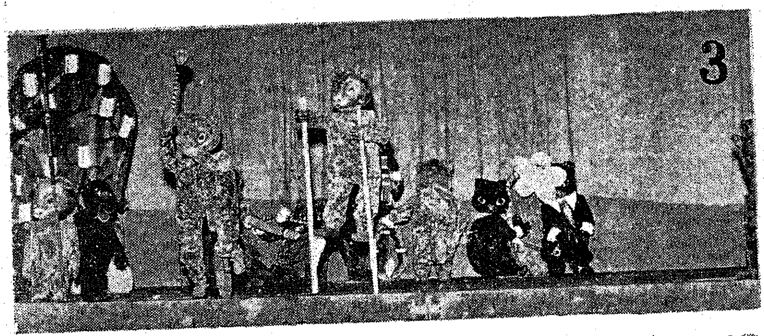
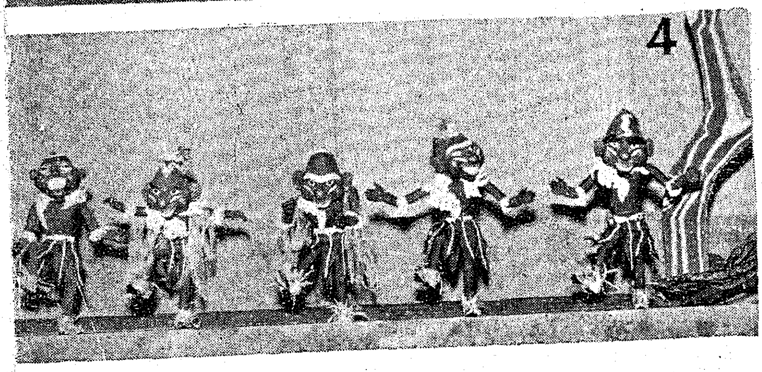




# AUSTRALIAN PUPPET SHOW





1, 2, 3 & 4. Scenes from the Australian Puppet Show staged at Rasika Ranjani Sabha, Madras, on 23rd October 1966.

5 Sri R. Venkataraman, Minister for Industries is presenting a bronze statue of Nataraja to Mr. Peter Seriven, Artistic Director of Marionette Theatre Group of Australia on the occasion.

6. The Australian Troupe with the Industries Minister.